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LD1411142588 [Editorial Report]

PNC Session in Algiers

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told a closed session of the PNC Political Committee 13 November that "we declare the Palestine democratic state," KUNA reported. The PNC spokesman affirmed the same day that the PNC will issue an official independence document during its closing session 15 November, the agency noted. The spokesman said the PLO looks forward to a "radical change" in U.S. Mideast policy, adding that it is prepared to meet with U.S. officials at any time and without preconditions.

In remarks cited by APS, the spokesman also confirmed that the PNC is considering UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the formation of a provisional Palestinian government. DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah noted there are differences of opinion about Resolution 242 and that the timing of the announcement of a provisional government is yet to be decided, according to KUNA.

Palestinian Communist Party official Sulayman al-Najjab, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, stated in an interview with Algiers radio that the PNC is likely to postpone the formation of a government and delegate this to the Executive Committee.

Yasir 'Arafat addressed the 12 November opening session of the PNC in a speech which did not refer to these detailed issues but referred to the need for "real peace" in Palestine. In his remarks, carried by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, 'Arafat lauded the "revolutionary harmony" between the "generals of the stones" in the occupied territories and the "RPG heroes" in Lebanon.

He also urged the incoming U.S. President to adopt a "new unbiased policy" toward Israel. The session on 12 November also heard a lengthy political report submitted by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, Algiers radio revealed.

As for the composition of the meeting, Algiers Voice of Palestine noted that it is being attended by Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Palestine Communist Party, and the Popular Struggle Front. Around 400 PNC members are present, as well as 32 Palestinians expelled by Israel, KUNA disclosed.

Reacting to the PNC, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir issued a communique expressing opposition to "all attempts to alter the status quo in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," THE JERUSALEM POST reported. The Israeli Foreign Ministry will explain throughout the world that the establishment of a Palestinian state on a small area will not provide a solution for the Palestinians and that such a state would become a center of "international terror," according to Jerusalem television.

Opposition to the PNC session was also expressed by Palestinian leaders and factions based in Syria. In an interview cited by the clandestine Al-Quds Radio, PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril denounced 'Arafat's "concessions," including moves toward recognition of Israel, and stated that the factions in the PNSF are considering holding a "popular meeting" followed by the establishment of a "new national council."

The radio carried similar criticisms of the PNC session by Abu Musa's Fatah "Provisional Command," Al-Sa'iqah, and "a number of PNC members in Syria." The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine also issued a statement denouncing the PNC for seeking to concede "more than half of Palestine to the enemies of God," according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Israel

In a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio 14 November, Yitzhaq Shamir thanked President Hayim Herzog for tasking him with the formation of the new government, adding he will approach "all the parties that will agree to take part in a government led by the Likud." In this regard, Shamir said that a national unity government could provide the right answer to Israel's problems and needs, and he announced his intention to form such a government.

Shamir stressed he is aware of the worry and apprehension felt by Jews in the diaspora over "matters of legislation" under discussion in the coalition negotiations and emphasized that his new government will continue to resolve these issues through dialogue and compromise. Labor leaders do not reject outright joining a government led by Shamir, but they will not initiate a move, the radio reported.

Shamir's chances of forming the new government had been strengthened after SHAS and Agudat Yisra'el promised their support to Likud in negotiations over the weekend, Jerusalem radio noted. The Likud reportedly agreed to give these parties two cabinet portfolios each: the Interior and Construction Ministries to SHAS; the Immigration Absorption and Labor and Welfare Ministries to Agudat Yisra'el. Shamir also promised SHAS that the new Knesset will pass a law on conversion within 3 months, the radio disclosed. The law will allow rabbinical courts in Israel to approve conversions to Judaism carried out in the diaspora.

As for the situation in the territories, Jerusalem radio reported that the IDF sealed off exits from the Gaza Strip and from Judaea and Samaria into Jerusalem 11 November, noting that such moves were taken to prevent disturbances linked to the PNC meeting in Algiers. Curfews and other restrictions on freedom of movement

were also imposed in Gaza and various other areas. Clashes continued over the weekend, however, with one Arab shot dead by IDF fire and a number of others wounded.

The radio also reported that security forces apprehended 16 "terrorist squads" in Judaea and Samaria responsible for dozens of recent attacks, adding that the homes of these suspects have been demolished. Nine Israeli Arabs have also been arrested on suspicion of working for Fatah and attacking Arabs considered to be collaborators.

Regarding moves to use the death penalty against those responsible for "particularly cruel" murders of civilians, the government announced that a ministerial committee will henceforth advise the judiciary on whether particular cases merit this punishment, according to the radio.

Lebanon

Finnish Soldiers Held—Five gunmen captured a UNIFIL guard post 12 November and held 22 Finnish UN soldiers and 2 local workers hostage, Helsinki radio reported. Four of the captors surrendered after several hours of negotiations, freeing four hostages. The rest of the hostages were freed in a raid during which the remaining captor fired his gun, killing one of the workers. According to Radio Free Lebanon, the armed group claimed to belong to Fatah.

In other hostage issues, a Hizballah official cited by the Voice of Lebanon radio said Syrian intelligence is holding the foreign hostages in Lebanon and that Hizballah no longer has anything to do with their fate. Syrian media were not observed to report or comment on the claim.

Military Situation—Brigadier General Samir al-Khatib said in remarks cited by Voice of Lebanon radio that Syria wants to withdraw its troops from West Beirut. He admitted having control of only 6 of the Lebanese Army's 10 brigades, adding that the brigades in the eastern areas possess three-fourths of the heavy weapons. According to Radio Free Lebanon, 6th Brigade soldiers, acting on orders from Al-Khatib, prevented military personnel from leaving West Beirut.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi 13 November, JANA reported. In a statement cited by Tripoli radio, Al-Mahdi stressed the strength of the fraternal links between the two countries.

In internal developments, Al-Qadhdhafi assigned each member of the leadership an area of specialization in order to promote his idea of an Arab federation, Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland radio revealed. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud was assigned Syria and Algeria; Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir will specialize in Egypt, Sudan, and the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Yemeni arenas; Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi will be responsible for the Gulf states; and Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi will specialize in Tunisia and Morocco.

Algeria

Prime Minister Kasdi Merba presented his new program to the National People's Assembly 12 November, Algiers television reported. Deputies refused to accept the new program as a fait accompli, and Merba was only able to present it after a "fierce discussion" by the deputies in which it was agreed that they would be given a day to study the draft before discussing it.

Merba's program includes plans for overcoming the country's economic problems by stimulating investments, creating jobs, and raising wages. The program also calls for increased agricultural productivity and more efficient use of water resources.

Saudi Arabia

Offices of commercial representation will be set up in Beijing and Riyadh to promote the further development of friendly relations and cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the PRC, SPA announced. On the subject of relations with Iran, King Fahd told the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH that although the media campaign has stopped, no contacts have yet been made with Tehran. He expressed the hope that Iran will become a strength for Islam.

Iran

Foreign Relations—Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani received Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertynkh in Tehran 10 November, IRNA reported. During talks, Larijani described Iranian and Soviet outlooks on regional and global developments as "close."

According to Tehran television, Bessmertynkh declared the Soviet Union's readiness to upgrade relations in a meeting with Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also said the USSR accepts Iran's position on Afghanistan and he extended to Hashemi-Rafsanjani an invitation from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to pay a formal visit to Moscow.

After his visit, Bessmertynkh called the talks "fruitful," adding that the two sides agreed to continue political consultations and promote economic cooperation, IRNA reported. He noted that a cooperation agreement was signed between TASS and IRNA.

In other developments, President 'Ali Khamene'i and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi received visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, IRNA reported. After the visit, Deputy Foreign Minister

'Ali Mohammad Besharati told IRNA the talks focused on further expanding political-economic ties, Iran's relations with the Gulf states, and the Afghan situation. He said a mujahidin delegation would visit Tehran for talks.

Internal Affairs—During Friday prayer sermons broadcast by Tehran radio, President Khamene'i repeated the recent message from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni that differences of opinion are acceptable and should not lead to internal strife. Rather, Khamene'i stressed, people should tolerate differences among themselves and unite to oppose Iran's "common enemies."

On the subject of the Geneva peace negotiations, Khamene'i said any discussion is "meaningless" as long as Iraqi troops remain within Iran's borders and he called on the UN secretary general to bring pressure on Iraq to withdraw its forces.

Iran-Iraq Peace Talks

Reporting on the end of the fourth round of direct negotiations, both IRNA and INA indicated that the only progress to be achieved was the signing of a memorandum with the Red Cross on the exchange of sick and wounded POW's. Commenting on the current round of negotiations, UN special envoy Jan Eliasson said that although no progress was made on the essential issues, the atmosphere of the talks was "constructive and positive," INA reported.

According to IRNA, he responded to Iran's call for Security Council intervention to put pressure on Iraq by saying it is up to the two countries involved to break the deadlock. INA cited Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz as saying he is "optimistic" that progress will be achieved at the next round of talks.

Upon his return to Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the Iraqi negotiators have neither the authority nor the goodwill to solve any of the existing problems, IRNA disclosed.

In an address to Islamic Revolution Committee commanders broadcast on Tehran radio, acting Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Hashemi-Rafsanjani accused Iraq of creating "neither peace nor war" conditions to prevent the "victory of Islam." He called the situation intolerable, saying they must either achieve peace or return to war. In remarks cited by Baghdad radio, Iraq's culture and information minister said Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks prove his "evil" intentions and Iran's insincerity in the peace negotiations.

Pakistan

The Supreme Court struck down a ruling by the Lahore High Court that would have allowed people without identity cards to vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections, Islamabad radio announced. According to AFP, Afghan refugees have been banned from entering cities and towns during the elections.

The Army chief of staff said special arrangements have been made to ensure the security of the elections, but he stressed soldiers will return to their barracks after the formation of an elected government, Islamabad radio reported.

Afghanistan

Ties with USSR—President Najibullah received CPSU Central Committee Secretary Oleg Baklanov 11 November, Kabul radio reported. Talks focused on military and economic cooperation and the creation of a broad-based coalition government.

Baklanov also met Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq and pointed out that the formation of a government under his leadership was an important step toward achieving a coalition government, TASS noted. According to Kabul radio, the two countries signed a military-economic cooperation protocol.

Military Developments—According to Islamabad radio, the mujahidin captured Samar Kheyl, the last major Army base between Jalalabad and the border of Pakistan.

Kabul radio claimed that government forces reopened the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, which resistance sources cited by AFP denied, noting that they killed 74 government troops and captured 11 security posts on the highway between 11 and 13 November. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources cited by AFP said more Scud missiles arrived in Kabul 10 November.

TASS claimed that opposition shelled Kabul 11 November, while AFP reported that the Afghan Army fired seven Scud missiles on resistance bases around Kabul the same day. TASS disclosed that three rockets fell close to a Soviet helicopter regiment in a 13 November attack on Kabul.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on PNC Session in Algiers

Groups Attending Listed

LD1211175988 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Excerpt] At 1630 this afternoon the PNC's extraordinary session—the session of the intifada—began with the participation of all the Palestinian resistance groups under the PLO umbrella: Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Palestine Communist Party, and the Popular Struggle Front. Full details on the opening of session will follow this news bulletin.

Earlier today the Palestinian leadership ended its discussion of all the issues on the agenda of the session, particularly the independence declaration and the political communique to be issued by the PNC during its current emergency session. Informed Palestinian sources have confirmed the agreement reached among all members of the Palestinian leadership on the issues discussed. [passage omitted]

PNC Speaker Delivers Speech

LD1211193288 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Speech by Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih to the PNC in Algiers on 12 November—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [applause] Your Excellency Brother Chadli Bendjedid, the great struggler, [applause] President of the Popular and Democratic Republic of Algeria, Secretary General of the FLN Party, may God preserve you. Your Excellency, the great struggler, Yasir 'Arafat, [applause] commander in chief and PLO Executive Committee Chairman, may God preserve you. Your Excellencies members of the PNC. Your Excellencies the invited guests, honorable ladies and gentlemen:

In the name of the Palestinian people, in the name of the PNC, in the name of Palestine and its martyrs, in the name of Jerusalem and its sanctities, in the name of the glorious intifada [applause] in our occupied homeland from Palestine [fi watanina al-muhtal min Falastin], in the name of the air of Palestine, its [words indistinct] and sky, in the name of every stone of its stones, I welcome you all in the land of jihad, struggle, and sacrifices; the land of beloved Algeria which gave the best examples in its revolution, struggle, patience, and steadfastness, until it bore the fruit and enjoyed independence after achieving liberation from the [word indistinct] of injustice, aggression, and colonialism.

I welcome the great struggler Chadli Bendjedid [applause] for coming in person and for his agreement to host this council in its extraordinary session. It is being held in the sacred precinct of great Algeria to salute the revolutionary intifada, which has encompassed the cities, villages, and deserts in comprehensive unity. It has included men, women, youth, and children and all inclinations, finding inspiration in God's words: "and hold fast, all together, by the rope that God [stretches out for you] and be not divided among yourselves."

The intifada is aimed at the removal of occupation, getting rid of agression, tragedies, and the suffering to which our sons and brothers are subjected at the hands of a Zionist enemy, in all forms and colors, so that our Palestinian people will come to enjoy what the other peoples of this earth enjoy: calm, stability, freedom, and independence. Our people will then be able to occupy itself with the continuation of the building of its civilization and to deal with its humanitarian causes and problems, in peace, security, and serenity. Our aspiration for peace stems from our sense of the need to secure life for our people and their needs, to restore rights to their owners, and to eliminate the idea of aggression and the usurpation of others' rights.

In our appreciation of this uprising, which is in its 12th month, and of its skill in diversifying the methods of its jihad and the cohesion of its elements and cadres and of its persistence to continue the struggle until it reaches its aims, in a continuous coordination between its leadership and the PLO leadership,—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—we have decided to call this session: the session of the uprising. We pray to God Almighty that He will realize its hopes and our hopes and its aims and our goals of liberation and independence with the help of the brothers and the friends. If you will help the cause of God, He will help you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

One must not forget to praise, thank, and voice appreciation for the brother fighters who are patient and steadfast in Palestinian camps in Lebanon. [applause] One must not forget those in the occupied homeland whether in the part occupied in 1948 or the part occupied in 1967. [applause] Thanks also goes to all those who supported us and who aided our struggle—Arab and Muslim brothers and friends in all the countries of the socialist community headed by the Soviet Union and the PRC [applause] and nonaligned countries; the African group; European states; Latin America; and the rest of the Arab and international liberation movements and thanks to all those who supported us and still support us in our uprising and strengthen our right to our cause.

I beg the brother members when the time comes for debate and speaking to adhere to their customary democracy and to show appreciation for all the world and international circumstances in their debates. They should also be objective in their speeches and comment. God is the giver of success and leader to the right path and may the peace and the blessing of God be upon you.

'Arafat Addresses Session

LD1211192688 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1744 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the PNC in Algiers on 12 November—live or recorded]

[Text] Brothers, friends, brothers and friends of the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian people, the people of the brave uprising, the people of the blessed uprising: Your Excellency Brother Chairman, whenever we encounter hardship, we look around and never fail to see our brother, the revolutionary holy combatant Chadli Bendjedid, and his valiant people, the people of 1.5 million martyrs. [applause]

It is no concidence we are convening this session in Algeria, among the people of Algeria and Chadli Bendjedid. It is no coincidence that after the battles of Beirut, the epic fighting in Beirut, we convened our Palestinian national conference here in Algeria. It is no coincidence that when we wanted to unify our ranks into one whole—to say that the Palestinian people, the Palestinian will, the Palestinian mujahidin, the Palestinian revolutionaries are one solid whole—we decided to meet in Algeria, whose people are also one solid whole. [applause]

Yes, yes brothers; yes, beloved ones. Brother President Chadli Bendjedid also had a vision or concept of unity and he called for convening a session, a meeting: the Arab summit. Why? So we could study this important issue facing the Arab nation, this new event in the Arab nation: the Palestinian people's uprising inside our occupied land, this uprising which is directed against the Zionist entity. Let us say on behalf of Algeria and on behalf of our Arab nation that the Palestinian people are not isolated; they are not alone in the holy war. They are not alone in the struggle, in the revolution. The entire Arab nation, which includes Algeria—the land of revolutionaries, the land of the free—stands alongside the Palestinian people in this blessed uprising.

Yes, brothers; yes, my beloved ones Algeria has always had this strategic vision and has stood—and you have stood Brother President—alongside our militant people during all the difficult days and during all the historic and decisive days. Today at this meeting I came to you Brother President—and I know that you have a lot of problems—and I told you we would like to hold this meeting. You said these words, which I will not forget: I am with Palestine, right or wrong. We will not forget these words, Brother President.

Yes, brothers, we are meeting today on Algerian soil. We have lost my brother and beloved one, my brother, my beloved one, and my companion in struggle: the symbol, the martyr, the first martyr of the bullet, and the first martyr of stones: martyr-hero Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. [applause]

Yes, by assassinating my brother—martyr, symbol, and hero Abu Jihad—they wanted to assassinate this uprising. They wanted to assassinate this authentic and popular revolution. But they did not know or understand that his blood has been spread over this blessed land, the first qiblah, and the third of the two holy places, the place where the Prophet Muhammad flew, the birthplace of Jesus. Yes, his blood has been spread over this blessed land so that the fire will become stronger.

We say: In the name of our people's youth, children, women, men, revolutionaries, and strugglers, this revolution, like the martyr of our Arab nation Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, was born to stay. [applause] I say, it was born to stay and to be victorious, to be victorious, to be victorious. Yes brothers. Yes brothers. This is the destiny of the revolutionaries of the Palestinian revolution. Our destiny is that every time one of our heroes becomes a martyr, more and more heroes hurry to follow in his footsteps.

The generals of stones are now hurrying to follow in his footsteps. The generals of stones are in creative revolutionary harmony with the RPG heroes, with the RPG revolutionaries in South Lebanon in the Lebanese camps, and stand side by side with our brothers in the Lebanese patriotic movement. They are defending the Arab character of Lebanon. They are defending the Palestinian existence in Lebanon. They are combating the persecution of the Zionist enemy. I say this is revolutionary harmony between the heroes of the stones, the generals of the stones, and the generals of the RPG.

This is the Palestinian revolution: a rifle and a stone, a rifle and stone, a rifle and stone; we will raise a rifle and an olive branch over the land of Isra' and Mi'raj [reference to the miracle of the prophet flying from Mecca to Jerusalem], the land of Muhammad, the land of the victory of Jesus, and the land of the victory of the prophet.

Yes, brothers this is the line which we follow. We say: A rifle in one hand, a stone in one hand, an RPG in one hand. However, at the same time we say: an olive branch to establish peace, real peace and not false or fascist or terrorist peace or the peace of those extremists, but the peace of Palestinians, which we will impose on this Palestinian land, the land of peace, the land of Isra', the land of Muhammad's victory, and the birthplace of Jesus.

Yes, O brothers, with such vision as well as such revolutionary and far-sighted openness we tell you O Brother President, that this revolution, this revolution will continue until the Palestinian flag is hoisted. We say to those revolutionaries, we say to the generals of stone, we say to the generals of the RPG, we say to our people inside our occupied land, in the diaspora, anywhere outside the homeland, we say to them: We will keep our promise and our oath; this revolution will continue and will continue until victory, until victory. [applause]

Yes, O brothers, Let me take this opportunity before I end my address to express my sincere thanks to the people of Tunisia and my brother, President Zine El Abidine, for allowing the Palestinian leadership to meet on Tunisian soil, in the same manner as Brother President Chadli Bendjedid has always allowed the Palestinian revolution to meet in Algiers whenever the situation warrants and the problems escalate. Whenever we wondered where to go, there has always been someone to say: Go to Algiers, Algiers and Bendjedid. [applause]

Yes, brothers and beloved ones; yes, brothers and beloved ones, we meet here and we are very proud of our democracy—the democracy of the jungle and of the gun, which is the most difficult democracy. I might differ with my brothers but they will still protect my back when I move forward. I might also differ with them but I still protect their backs when they move forward; yes when they move forward. Yes, yes this is Palestinian democracy; where are we moving toward? We always move forward. Where are we moving? Being brave means that we use our bodies as a bridge so that all our comrades can cross over. Cross over to where? So they can cross over to Palestine, to Jerusalem so we can fly this Palestinian flag—the flag of the Arab nation over the walls of Jerusalem, over the minarets of Jerusalem, over the churches of Jerusalem.

Here, my brothers, I would like to salute all our brethren and all our brothers in the Arab nation who are helping us and who are supporting our Palestinian people. We salute the free and noble men. My sincere thanks to my brothers in the nonaligned countries, to my brothers in the socialist countries, foremost of which is our friend the Soviet Union. My sincere thanks to the PRC, to my brothers in the OAU, which considers the Palestinian issue an African issue and not merely an Arab issue. [applause]

Yes, I salute my brothers in the Islamic countries, our friends in Europe and the United States and the United States itself. [phrase as heard] My sincere thanks to our friends in the United States and in Latin America. It was not by chance that the latest UN resolution on the intifida was adopted with 130 votes for and only 2 votes—the United States and Israel—against.

I am, however, hoping that President Bush...['Arafat changes thought] I call on him in the name of the Palestinian people to adopt a new unbiased policy toward Israel. We are not looking for the impossible; we only want what is right and just. We want the homeland from which we have been banished. Yes, my brothers from here I salute all free and noble men throughout the world and assert we are all together in it until victory, until victory, until victory.

God hath purchased from the believers their persons and their goods; in return they received the garden of Paradise; they fight in His cause, and they slay and are slain; a promise binding on Him, in the truth, through the law, the Gospel, and the Koran; and who is more faithful to his covenant than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: That is the supreme achievement. Verily, God sayeth the truth. [Koranic verse] May God's peace be upon you.

Syrian Members Issue Statement

JN1211210088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1711 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] A statement was issued by a number of PNC members in Syria on the occasion of the convening of the PNC's current session in Algiers. The statement says: The PLO's current leadership has extended an invitation to convene an extraordinary session of the PNC in Algiers from 12 to 14 November. The invitation states that this session will be convened to discuss the popular uprising in the occupied homeland and the political developments and duties. The invitation affirms the need to attend because this session has very great importance for the history of our people, nation, and cause.

In the past, there have been certain calls and statements made by those who are currently leading the PLO. Also, the PLO's current leadership has for a while been raising slogans, extending invitations, preparing plans, making moves, holding meetings, all of which indicated it intends to take steps connected with the crux of the Palestinian cause. Media reported that, during this session, the PLO's leadership will announce the document of independence, which will be followed by the establishment of the state and the formation of the government.

The statement issued by a number of PNC members in Syria continues: In view of the dangerous results originating from all of this, we present to the sons of our people and nation the following:

Discussion of the subject of the uprising in the occupied homeland has been introduced in the proceedings of this session so it can be used as a cover which the PLO's current leadership can use to announce the plans it prepared and the steps it intends to take. If the popular uprising in the occupied homeland was the real purpose behind convening this extraordinary session, the PLO's current leadership should have called for it before now, not 1 year after its start. It should have made it the only subject under discussion in the agenda and not introduce it within the multitude of political duties and developments, which, according to the text of the invitation, have great importance for the history of our people, nation, and cause.

The statement continues: The introduction of the uprising's subject among the political duties and developments, which have great importance in the history of our people, nation, and cause, is an exposed attempt to envelope and employ it to realize the dreams of the PLO's current leadership in creating a satellite state, or a

phony authority for the price of Palestine—land, people, history, and sacred places. Additionally, this diverts attention from our people's sufferings inside the homeland.

Undoubtedly, the political duties and developments, which are meant by the current leadership and which were the only reason behind the convening of this extraordinary session, have great importance in the history of our people and nation. They constitute the most dangerous deviation in the history of the Palestinian Arab people, Arab nation, and Palestinian cause. In reality, they mean the Palestinians' relinquishment of their homeland occupied in 1948 and 1967, abandonment of their rights in their country, and neglecting Arab rights in Palestine.

The proclamation of independence, the birth of the state, and the formation of the government, if not preceded by a victory in any field, and without having any shadow of reality or presence on the ground of reality, are only daydreams and mere slogans. At the same time, they hide behind and within them a terrible scheme on which the PLO's current leadership agreed in advance. This scheme was prepared and introduced by many sides, the forefront of which is the Camp David regime in Egypt, which established with this leadership the strongest of relations. This scheme aims to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to terminate the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The statement issued by a number of PNC members in Syria adds: The different practices pursued by the current leadership throughout previous years and through the PNC's consecutive sessions have made the PNC lose its real and basic meanings. They deprived it of its authorities and relieved it of its responsibilities. They turned it into a mere figure, by the convocation of which it justifies its practices and behavior and through which it can achieve its premeditated intentions and obtain whatever resolutions it wants. This leadership no longer cares about a national charter, bylaws, or resolutions, agreements, and arrangements. It has transcended, ignored, and violated all this. There is no longer a reason or justification for participating in it.

The convening of this extraordinary session of the PNC will only bring more disarray and differences, in spite of it being surrounded by a number of slogans, the purpose of which is to throw dust in the eyes. Where is the homeland, for which independence is to be proclaimed? It is in the enemies' hands, awaiting liberation before phony independence. What does the state, the birth of which they want us to celebrate, mean? It means the recognition of the Zionist entity on the ruins of our entity. What is the duty of the government that will be formed? It is the tool of negotiations and the protector of the Zionist entity's borders.

These slogans, particularly in this phase, are only an escape from the serious struggle and the inevitable battle. In all cases, it will not defeat an evil, bring good, or liberate an inch.

It became known, common, and clear that the existing leadership used to convene a session for its council whenever it wants to jump in the air and whenever it wants to commit a sin that needs a cover and hopes the council will provide the required cover by taking the required resolution. Therefore, it is eager to obtain a resolution from the council, any resolution that it can use for a new mandate to continue the pursuance of its futile course.

Due to all this, the existing leadership has lost its credibility and abandoned the PLO after it brushed it aside and ignored its fundamentals and institutions. At the same time, it throws away its mantle as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, because the PLO represents this people in endeavoring to liberate their homeland, not in bargaining over their destiny, conceding their right, or relinquishing any inch of their sacred soil.

The statement continues: During this crucial stage, the Palestinian march did not need a session. It had enough sessions, which did not prevent it from reaching its fragmented state. The urgent need is for a serious stand that will remove all obstacles before achieving a sound, responsible national unity that will lead to the abandonment of the futile method pursued by the existing leadership so we will be able to support the uprising and to mass Arab, Palestinian, and friendly forces everywhere to support it.

In light of what has been mentioned before, we warn against the convening of this extraordinary session, through which the way will be paved for a single-handed determination of the destiny of the cause, in contradiction to all agreed accords and principles. We make reservations about all resolutions issued in this regard by the PNC during this extraordinary session. We warn against the attempt to counterfeit the Palestinian Arab people's will and cause. We call on our people everywhere—all of their strugglers, institutions, and individuals—to be aware and vigilant. We call on all honorable sons of this people to seriously and responsibly endeavor to make a stand that will restore to the march its survival and purity and to the cause its sacred meaning.

The statement issued by a number of PNC members in Syria concludes: We are confident our Arab brothers, in all their countries, realize the real situation and work seriously to protect the Palestinian march from further fragmentation. Due to their belief that the Palestinian cause is the principal central and fateful cause of the Arab nation, they will prevent our Palestinian Arab people from falling into the abyss of capitulation and surrender.

Session Begins Debate

LD1211234!88 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] [Announcer] The emergency session of the PNC continues this evening. Our colleague Ahmed Ibrahim is following it.

[Ibrahim] The emergency session of the PNC will go on until late tonight. Delegates spent hours debating the council proposal to form two committees. The first committee would deal with the uprising and the second would deal with political matters and would concern itself with all aspects connected with the draft political resolutions and statements.

Concerning this subject—the formation of committees—members of the council intervened and expressed their views. Some of them believe the political report should be read first and then the report on the uprising. This would be followed by extensive debate on the two reports and then the committees would be formed. Some of them proposed that the two committees should be formed (? first), suggested who should be included as members and chairman, and said the two reports should then be presented to the two committees. The council members should also express their views and stands on them.

The important thing is that all have agreed on how the two committees should be formed and all have shown concern about the need to set them up so they will be the basic recourse for the political resolutions.

In these historic moments in the life of Palestinian national action the PNC Presidium is busy studying all views to come out with a unified stand and word that is in harmony with the aspirations of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories. The PNC is a democratic constitutional institution in militant Palestinian life. It is the place where the attitudes and viewpoints interact and it is the supreme embodiment of Palestinian will.

Communist Leader Interviewed

LD1311112388 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] As we advertised, our guest on the news bulletin is Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Palestinian Communist Party Politburo, who is participating in the PNC uprising session. Radio correspondents (Bariza Berazzek, Sariha Bahri, and Hasiba Houarcin) interview him:

[Begin recording] [Al-Najjab] The title of the emergency session is the uprising session. Therefore the main point on the agenda is the uprising of our people in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

We think the main job of this session is to achieve a clear political program which determines a Palestinian peace plan or initiative, which the uprising and its achievements made it possible for us to offer now from a position of strength and from a position of wide international support for our people's struggle and aims. This initiative will definitely be embodied in a political statement, which we consider to be a basic document of this session, and we will draft in clearer and more specific language the 18th PNC session program, which was held in Algiers in April last year. This Palestinian initiative will also rely on the unanimous Arab resolutions, especially the resolution from the uprising summit, which was also held in Algeria.

Now we are clearly showing that our people are struggling to liberate their land, which was occupied in 1967, and to practice their right to self-determination and to establish their own state. We also rely on the 1947 UN Resolution No 181, which gave the Palestinians their own independent state after dividing the Palestinian mandate land into two states, one Arab and another Jewish. We also stress that the condition for peace is the acceptance of the Palestinian option, that is, an independent Palestinian state in exchange for peace.

[Correspondent] Sulayman al-Najjab, we know the uprising session will reach an important decision—to declare an independent Palestinian state. What is your idea of this state and what will be its borders?

[Al-Najjab] What we are studying now is a declaration of Palestinian national independence and the establishment of a Palestinian independent state. [passage omitted]

Concerning this state's borders in the independence document we will rely on the international legitimacy represented by the 1947 UN Resolution No 181 in 1947, which I mentioned earlier, on establishing an independent Palestinian state. However, concerning its geographical borders, we must also take into consideration the effects of the defeat of the Arab armies in 1967, by which all Palestine fall into Israeli hands. Therefore we deem it necessary to implement UN Resolution No 242, which calls for Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the territories occupied since this date, with Arab Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Among the options on offer is the formation of a transitional government. Will the formation of a Palestinian transitional government be linked to and declared at the same time as the declaration of an independent Palestinian state?

[Al-Najjab] Any state should inevitably have a government. However we will postpone this step for now. This is the agreement in the Palestinian leadership. The work on a Palestinian government will be delegated to the PLO Executive Committee. Why? Because we think there are still issues requiring deeper study and more thinking before taking a decision. We would like to ask a question: If we form a transitional government now, what will be the relations between this government and

the PLO Executive Committee? We oppose and we warn against the danger of forming two power centers within the Palestinian leadership. This was one. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Agreement on Independence

JN1311153888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Salah Salamah dispatch from Algiers]

[Text] The PNC's extraordinary uprising session is continuing in the Club des Pins near Algiers. The PNC members are expected to be divided into two parties within two committees. The first is to discuss the procedural matters that will secure support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and develop it. The second is a political committee for the discussion of the independence document and the political statement.

Meetings on the sidelines of the session held on the level of the PLO Executive Committee members and the leaders of the Palestinian factions participating in the PNC session have so far produced a complete agreement on the text of the independence document.

Ranking Palestinian sources have informed us now that this document contains the Palestinian people's declaration on the establishment of the Palestinian state on Palestinian soil in accordance with their historical right, their right to self-determination and sovereignty, and in accordance with international legitimacy, the right of peoples to self-determination, and on the basis of UN Resolution No 181 of 1947 calling for the establishment of two states on Palestinian territory.

The document on the proclamation of independence affirms that Jerusalem will be the capital of the Palestinian state, which will guarantee freedom of religion, belief, democracy, and pluralism, and in which every Palestinian will have citizenship.

On the other hand, the contents of the political document have not been unanimously accepted by the Palestinian factions and forces attending the current PNC session, particularly matters dealing with the legal basis on which the call for holding an international Middle East peace conference will be based.

While the proposed document stipulates Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967 and calls for placing the occupied Palestinian territories under international supervision during a short transition period until a referendum, for the right to self-determination, and for the establishment of the state on the basis of all the UN resolutions, including Resolutions No 242 and 338, the PFLP and other factions and forces call for not mentioning Resolution No 242 from far or near because the translation of this resolution, as PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash told our radio, will not produce the state and will not materialize the right to self-determination and to repatriation for the refugees.

Intensive contacts and discussions are continuing in a final attempt to reach an agreement on a unified text that will bring about the aspired national consensus.

'Arafat Declares Palestinian State

LD1311141288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1303 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, Nov 13 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declared the creation of a Palestinian democratic state, authorised Palestinian sources said here Sunday. The sources said 'Arafat announced this during meetings of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council, meeting here for the second day.

The sources told KUNA that 'Arafat had made the following statement in the closed-door session: Based on the natural rights and international and Arab legitimacy as well as international resolutions on the Palestine problem, including the British Mandate, and Resolution No 181, that stipulates the creation of a Palestinian state, also the right of peoples to self-determination, to which the international society agrees, we declare the Palestine democratic state.

Qaddumi Addresses PNC

LD1311162788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1414 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, Nov 13 (KUNA)—A Palestinian political report has indicated that the volume of Arab efforts in supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories has been, so far, weak on various political, moral and material spheres.

The report, which was prepared by the PLO Political Department and read by the department's chief Faruq Qaddumi before the Palestine National Council, PNC, session here last night said that the Arabs have been satisfied with the Palestinian uprising but they left it to fight its way alone without making political accomplishments in international fora of Palestinian sacrifices. [phrase as received]

Qaddumi said that the heroic uprising had brought the Palestinian cause into a new phase and gave it a great unprecedented push as well as imposing new political facts, thus "necessitated the convening of this extraordinary session to study its implications and reflections and understand its lessons with the aim of rendering means of support for its steadfastness and continuity."

The report described the uprising as "a struggle for self-defence" aimed at "maintaining the national existence, enhancing Palestinian identity and preserving legitimate human aspirations which seek ridding of all restrictions."

Qaddumi reiterated that the uprising will continue and said it had already contributed in revival of national feeling for solidarity and the need for ending inter-Arab differences which dominated the Arab arena for so long time.

He stressed that the uprising, as it has been indicated by some Israeli writers, is considered by the Zionist entity "a long war of attrition" against both Israel's army and society.

The PLO Political Department chief hailed Iraq for its role in defending the eastern flank of the Arab nation and commended the "Iraqi steadfastness and victory" which he said coincided with the Palestinian uprising achievements thus creating a stronger feeling of Arab solidarity and cohesion.

Qaddumi described the Jordanian monarch King Husayn's decision of breaking off political and legal ties with the West Bank as "logical", noting that it had been prompted by the uprising reflections and the developments witnessed by the region. He stressed that the "PLO is keen to maintain its distinguished relations with brotherly Jordan on basis of mutual understanding and confidence."

On the Palestinian stance toward the United States, Qaddumi said that the Palestinian struggle is always undermined by the U.S. hostile position which denies the Palestinian people national rights and openly supports the Israeli aggression. He hoped that the Palestinian uprising would help the American Administration reconsider its position toward the Palestinian cause.

Session Considering 242, 338

LD1311170588 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 13 Nov (APS)—Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, the official spokesman for the extraordinary PNC session confirmed today, Sunday, at a news conference that the provisional Palestinian government being debated by the Political Committee cannot be an alternative to the PLO; rather it is one of the tools for achieving an international peace conference. He added "the formation of this government takes into account the representation of all Palestinian forces inside and outside the occupied land" and he explained that the formation of such a government will be carried out by the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee, and this depends on how much progress is made toward convening an international peace conference.

Concerning the confederation with Jordan, 'Abd al-Rahman said there is a draft resolution on the discussion regarding a confederation between an independent Palestinian state and Jordan, but after a state is established on the land of Palestine and the Israeli occupation ends. He added that the political paper includes a Palestinian vision of peace in the region, based on the Palestinian, Arab, and international reality and the Palestinian people's insistence on recovering their firm rights.

The spokesman confirmed that the conference is considering UN and Security Council resolutions, including 242 and 338, which confirm among other things the legitimacy of the Palestinians' [claim] to independence and recognize their firm national rights, including that of independence and the establishment of a state in the land of Palestine.

'Abd al-Rahman announced that the Palestinian people and leadership reject all the Israeli ideas, whether those of Shamir or Peres, which are aimed at consolidating the occupation and capitulationist solutions.

On the work of the session, whether at the level of the open meetings or that of committees, he said we are eager to ensure consensus on the PNC resolutions, but if this is not possible, the resolutions will be issued by majority votes, pointing to the various Palestinian forces dealing with the issue of national unity.

On the work of the 1st day of the conference, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman said that 338 out of 447 members attended "for reasons which have nothing to do with them." [sentence as received] He said that the absent were prevented from participating in the session by the Israeli authorities and some Arab countries.

'Source': PNC To Accept 242

LD1311173088 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The PNC's uprising session this morning entered the 2d day with a resumption of a discussion of issues on the agenda.

The correspondent will now speak to us directly from the Palace of nations at the Club des Pins: Mohamed Chellouche, how far have the proceedings progressed?

[Chellouche] Dekkar, the proceedings are taking place in closed session at the level of two comittees: the Uprising Committee and the Political Committee. Getting information depends on behind the scenes moves. Our crew has managed to get information from a responsible Palestinian source. This source says that the question that has not yet been settled is the subject of the political statement and disputes over the two [UN] resolutions: 242 and 338. [passage omitted] A number of drafts have been put forward in this regard in order to avoid disagreement. However, according to the Palestinian source, these all ultimately lead to acceptance of the two resolutions.

The Political Committee will continue in open session until an agreement is arrived at. Until then, Dekkar, all Palestinian sides are focusing on not harming but consolidating the PLO even more. Regarding the constitutional document, which is the declaration of independence, the Palestinian source says that the draft has been concluded and only the clarification of some points remains.

[Announcer] In addition to the political statement and the constitutional document, are there other points open to discussion?

[Chellouche] Yes, Dekkar, the subject of a confederation with Jordan is also open to discussion. The majority view is that this subject will be left until after the achievement of independence. We would like to note here that there is a basic foundation created by the previous PNC session. This foundation defines how such a confederation could be established on the basis of the distinguished relations between the two peoples, the Palestinian and Jordanian.

[Announcer] Mohamed, so much about general affairs. Can you talk to us about the Uprising Committee proceedings?

[Chellouche] As far as the Uprising Committee is concerned, Dekkar, matters are proceeding normally. All points put forward concentrate on helping and developing the uprising and ways of living up to the important scope created by the uprising.

[Announcer] If possible, can we talk about some of the general matters, those arising behind the scene? Is there anything that has drawn your attention?

[Chellouche] Yes, Dekkar, outside the conference hall there is a gathering of journalists around the prominent leaders in the PLO and in the PNC in order to talk, of course. I was impresssed by a word uttered by one of the PNC membrs while he was talking to a colleague from "Horizons."

Asked about a final agreement regarding the political decision, the Palestinian official said: During the debates in Algeria in the 1940's and the differences over the future of Algeria, Sheikh Abdelhamid Ben Badis got hold of a handful of soil and said this is the soil of Algeria and it will remain the soil of Algeria. Similarly, the children of occupied Palestine are getting hold of stones and saying these are the stones of Palestine and will remain the stones of Palestine.

In another corner, Dekkar, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah was surrounded by a large number of journalists. Among the subjects raised was the U.S. stance toward the Palestinian cause. Hawatimah emphasized that the U.S. position is dictated by the wider interests of that country. Our role, he said, should be to shun exhortions. What ought to happen is increasing international pressure so the United States is impelled to accept the logic of maturity and depart from the red [as heard] circle.

Dekkar, colleague Lahsan Chaiche has now arrived with some information about progress in the proceedings of the Political Committee.

[Chaiche] It can be said that the PNC proceedings now focus on the Political Committee. This committee is still in closed session. It began with a report presented by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. In it, he drew the broad outlines of the positions of European states, the United States, the USSR, and other states [on the Palestinian issue]. The conclusion of this report is that there is a change in the pre-election tone of the United States.

In this respect, it was mentioned that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has not rejected self-determination. However, he says that if self-determination means an independent state, then we reject that. If the PLO unilaterally declares a state and a government, then we reject that. If Israel annexes the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, then we reject that also.

The United States accepts an international conference, provided that all the other parties accept the basis for holding it and base it on Resolutions 242 and 338. As for the USSR, it calls for a political settlement and a full-fledged international conference. The USSR notes there is little progress in the U.S. position and hopes there will be further progress after the presidential elections. The USSR has told the United States that, following Jordan's step, there is no choice other than the Palestinians.

We conclude from the report that there has been great progress in Japan's position and the Socialist Internationale. The latter used to be biased toward the Israeli Labor Party. The report also informs us that Italy suggested forming a European force to protect the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but that Britain opposes this. It is noteworthy that the British Labor Party supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. At the moment, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] is presenting a report about the discussions that took place at the Palestinian leadership level in preparation for this session.

[Chellouche] Dekkar, more than half an hour ago, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, the PNC's official spokesman, held a news conference during which he reviewed all the work done since the session opened. Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman praised the attendence of President Chadli Bendjedid at the opening session. He said that that reflects Algeria's firm stances toward the Palestinian cause, recalling the Algiers summit of last June and which was devoted to supporting the uprising.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman hailed, on behalf of the PNC, the Palestinian people, and the children of the stones. He called on the United Nations and human rights organizations to defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and expressed his hope that the PNC will come up with decisions that live up to the expectations of all members.

The radio crew, Dekkar, this morning contacted Muhammad Mulhim, head of the PLO's Department of Occupied Territory Affairs, and conducted this conversation with him.

[Begin recording] [Mulhim] God willing, the work of the Uprising and Political Committees will begin. We hope their work will be concluded either today or tomorrow so they can present their reports to the PNC. This session, as you know, is the uprising session. The department has presented and distributed its report; it will be distributed today. The committee will look into the report and note what has been achieved in the field of supporting and escalating the uprising. Also, the report presented proposals and recommendations which will be put forward to the committee so that it can make additions that may help in escalating the uprising and achieving the national objectives of freedom and independence.

[Unidentified correspondent] What have the efforts to hold an international peace conference achieved, given that the declaration of an independent Palestinian state implies independent representation of the Palestinians?

[Mulhim] Independent and equal representation is a Palestinian decision that was made prior to the declaration of a Palestinian state. The declaration of a Palestinian state is a consolidation of the independence of the Palestinian decision and independent representation at the international conference. I hope that this decision will speed up efforts to convene the international conference in the immediate future.

[Correspondent] Brother Muhammad Mulhim, do you think that the results of this session will live up to the expectations of the uprising?

[Mulhim] There is no doubt that the resolutions of this session ought to be up to the expectations of the uprising. I think that the uprising and what is happening at this session are complementary. We here and the uprising inside [the occupied territories] are undertaking complementary work. The uprising and the PNC are not two separate things. We are trying to strengthen the uprising, to study the best means of supporting our families inside the territories, and to escalate the uprising in order to achieve the common aim of the Palestinian people inside and outside.

[Correspondent] If the United States rejects the results of this session, will the uprising use different means?

[Mulhim] It is expected, of course, that whatever the results of this session are, Israel will reject them and the United States will follow Israel in that. But this has not stopped us in the past from continuing our struggle and it will not now or in the future. [end recording]

[Chellouche] This, then, Dekkar, is our report on the 2d day of the PNC proceedings at the Palace of the Union.

Agreement Reached on Government

JN1311185688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Salah Salamah dispatch from Algiers]

[Text] Meetings of the PNC's extraordinary uprising session continued this afternoon on the level of the uprising and political committees. The PNC members were divided into two groups within these two committees to separately meet and discuss the practical measures to provide all types of support for the continuation and promotion of the uprising and the political statement which includes three basic axes that will be materialized in the form of historic resolutions that will be adopted by the current PNC session. The political future of the Palestine question, or rather the Palestinian people, will be determined on the basis of these resolutions.

The first axis deals with the independence document in which the independent Palestinian state will be proclaimed on the soil of Palestine on the basis of UN Resolution No 181 of 1947, which mandates, as is known, the establishment of two states in Palestine, and in accordance with international legitimacy and the Palestinian people's historical right to their national soil.

We were told by leading Palestinian sources that Jerusalem will be the capital of the Palestinian state, in which every Palestinian will be a citizen and which will guarantee freedom of religion, belief, and political pluralism. This enjoys the support of all factions and Palestinian forces participating in the current PNC session.

The second axis is related to the issue of forming a provisional Palestinian government. More than one responsible Palestinian source stressed to us that agreement has been reached among all parties to adopt a resolution within the PNC. This resolution will provide in principle for the formation of a provisional government, but will entrust the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council with the task of forming and declaring this government at a later time. A ranking Palestinian official told our radio that the leaders of factions have agreed in principle on choosing the members of this government from the Palestinian factions and independent Palestinians abiding by the PLO's program.

The third axis deals with the legal basis for the convocation of the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East. From the Palestinian viewpoint, this conference should result in Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 and in placing the occupied Palestinian territories under UN supervision for a short transitional period until a referendum, self-determination, and establishment of the state are realized.

Differences are currently rife between two viewpoints. The first is shared in general, that is, away from personal judgments and stands, by the Fatah Movement, the DFLP, the Communist Party, and a considerable number of independents. This group calls for adopting a balanced stand that takes all the UN resolutions into consideration, while concentrating in particular on Resolution 242 as a legal basis for the international conference [words indistinct] emphasizes the importance of taking into consideration in this stage in particular the will of the internatinal community [words indistinct] brought about by international detente and accord between the two superpowers.

From this premise, reference should be clearly made to Resolution 242 as a legal basis, together with the rest of the UN resolutions which guarantee the right to self-determination for the Palestinians in order to reach the desired peaceful settlement.

The second viewpoint, advocated prominently by the PFLP, calls for adopting an adjusted formula based on the phrase of all UN resolutions without at all mentioning Resolution 242 because this resolution, according to them, will not lead to a state, repatriation, or self-determination.

Differences over this point have not yet been settled. Discussions are now continuing and bilateral contacts and meetings are taking place among the factions' leaders on the sidelines in order to reach a common denominator which, as stressed to us by ranking officials from both teams, can depict the desire of all to maintain national Palestinian unanimity, protect and activate the uprising, open positive political horizons for the uprising, and attain the maximum possible degree of Arab solidarity with the unified Palestinian stand.

Algeria

Prime Minister Presents Draft Program

LD1211205688 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Excerpts] This evening the National People's Assembly began discussing the new government's draft program. [passage omitted]

After a discussion between the deputies and the prime minister about procedural issues, the first session was adjourned. It resumed in the evening when the prime minister presented his draft program to the deputies.

Due to the late hour, we are not able to give you this draft program, but we will go back to it in our next bulletin, bearing in mind the discussions of the draft program will take place on Monday at 1500.

Further on Remarks to Assembly

LD1311015988 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Kasdi Merbah, the new prime minister, this evening presented to the National People's Assembly deputies the government program which will be discussed on Monday in accordance with the Constitution's clauses adopted by the people following the 3 November referendum. The proposed program deals with government goals for the coming period and the priorities which will be the focus of the goverment's work, particularly in the vital spheres of economic and social development in the country.

[Begin Merbah recording] Mr. Speaker, brother and sister deputies: The president of the Republic drew up, within the framework of the continuity of the state's insitutions, the general guidelines for the topics which our government ought to give a particular concern given the deep transformations in managing economic and social policy in the period of political reforms. Our plan falls within the framework of this context and aims at successfully dealing with the most deprived social segments' concern, in particular. [end recording]

After pointing out that the plan's goals are to overcome the economic burdens and problems, he stressed that one of the main aims is to stimulate productive investments. He said, in this respect: Our plan aims mainly at giving a boost to productive investments of the national economy. Furthermore, it also aims at creating jobs and raising lower wages by introducing a wider social justice and creating a national solidarity.

Moreover, the government will take measures to secure more availability of consumer goods needed by families, particularly through the reorganization of the distribution channels. It will also study hows the the educational system can be reformed and keep a constant watch on the way social needs are managed. Particular importance will be given to citizens' participation in the country's political, economic, social, and cultural life by virtue of the anticipated reforms.

In this sphere Kasdi Merbah reviewed the necessary conditions needed for an economic boost which will have to include strategic sectors. He said: As far as the development of agriculture is concerned, the reform, which is already under way, will be consolidated by means of increased productivity and expansion of cultivable land, particularly through land reclamation. The transition from a traditional and financially dependent agriculture system to modern agriculture, which uses a qualified youthful working forces, will be one of the government's concerns.

Individual and collective initiative should be encouraged to bolster the program of acquiring real estate in the areas which have yet to be reclaimed. The irrigation sector will continue to benefit from the priority given in the investment program to realize the plan for mobilizing water resources to provide inhabitants with drinking water and fulfill the needs of agriculture and industry. Given the intensity of the needs and the chronic nature of the pressure on our water resources, studies will be carried out to assess the possibility of mobilizing new resources through some economically suitable technical solutions.

The same interest was paid by the prime minister to employment, a topic of primary concern. He said in this respect: I have already pointed out that employment is one of the government's main preoccupations. Thus, government action will be focused on two points. First, action will be taken, on a short term basis, to protect existing jobs and expand the job market in the most disadvantaged regions to benefit the poorer segments.

Second, action will be taken to guarantee, on a medium- and long-term basis, the setting up of apparatuses to encourage job creating activities. Measures will be taken concerning job creation and fighting unemployment within the framework of stimulating productive investments with priority given to the creation of jobs in agriculture and in small and medium-sized entreprises, as well as in construction, public works, manufacturing industries, services, and tourism thanks to measures involving tax allowances to be introduced in 1989.

To give these the attention they deserve in the government's plan, the prime minister dealt with the social and educational sector and the reforms to be introduced, particularly as far as the educational and training systems are concerned and to successfully deal with the concerns of the youth.

He said: It is not possible to separate this reform from the plan of action in the benefit of the youth. Of course, the task is a complicated and a difficult one and will depend upon tangible and practical things. In this

respect, I would like, in the name of government, to make a special call to the Algerian youth to assure them that the government will do its utmost and continue to listen to their legitimate concerns.

Kasdi Merbah stressed that all the goals, which are included in the plan, are goals which need everyone's readiness, composure, and solidarity to guarantee the realization of an advanced society.

'Stormy' Session Suspended

LD1211213988 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Insurrection by deputies in Algeria: The new prime minister, Kasdi Merbah, was unable to present his government program this afternoon at the National People's Assembly.

A majority of deputies refused to give their decision because they did not find out about the government program beforehand. The session, which was a particularly stormy one, was suspended after 1 hour and is expected to resume this evening.

Opening the session, the speaker of the Assembly said the 3 November referendum gave the deputies the right of political control and he said they had every intention of exercising it.

Session Resumes

LD1311092688 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Kasdi Merbah's presentation of the government's program took place only after a fierce discussion by the deputies.

The National People's Assembly's deputies refused, from a formal point of view, the presentation of the program by the prime minister. After the address by the National People's Assembly president, Rabah Bitat gave the rostrum to Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah to present his government's program.

The deputies protested against the procedures of presenting the program and refused to be presented with a fait accompli. [passage omitted]

After these differences about formalities and a 1-hour stoppage, the session was resumed after an agreement to present the government program and give the deputies a day to study in depth the proposed draft before discussing it tomorrow on Monday.

Therefore the National People's Assembly will start to discuss the government program on Monday afternoon.

2300 Factory Workers Go on Strike Over Profits

LD1011193788 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The 2300 workers at the big electronics factory in Bel Abbes went on strike yesterday. Their demands relate to the uneven distribution of annual profits between workers at the factory and at the electrical goods distribution unit. The initial reports about this have been given by the firm's management which at the moment is having talks with workforce representatives.

40 Former Opposition Members Return 12 Nov

LD1411113188 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Forty Algerians, former members of the so-called Movement for Democracy in Algeria [movement formed by former president Ben Bella] which claims to be an opposition movement, returned to the homeland yesterday. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Israeli Demand for Mubarak Meeting Rejected

JN1311102788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Nov (WAKH)—Egyptian political sources have disclosed that Egypt rejected a secret Israeli demand for a meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The sources also disclosed that Egyptian-Jordanian contacts were held with the U.S. Administration stressing the need to permit PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to enter the United States to address the UN General Assembly and to withstand the Zionist pressures being exerted on Washington by the Tel Aviv government with the aim of denying the Palestinian leader an entry visa.

Today's issue of Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD quoted these sources as saying that Egypt affirmed in the request it submitted to the U.S. Administration in this regard the need to hold a direct U.S.-Palestinian meeting.

Informed political Egyptian sources also said that 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received during the past 2 days the Israeli ambassador in Cairo and informed him of his government's reply to the Shamir message, which he had conveyed to Egyptian officials with the objective of holding a meeting between President Mubarak and Shamir.

The sources added that Dr 'Abd al-Majid informed the Israeli ambassador that the Egyptian Government has no objections to resuming the peace dialogue with Israel as long as the Israeli Government harbors sincere intentions on the issue of bringing about peace in the region.

He also informed him of Egypt's rejection of the Israeli prime minister's request that a meeting be held between him and President Mubarak. Furthermore, he affirmed that Egypt will agree to hold this meeting if there is a development regarding the Israeli stand toward peace.

Other Egyptian sources said that a meeting was held in the American capital within the past 2 days between the Egyptian ambassador in Washington and Edward Baker, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state [title as received], who is expected to tour a number of Middle Eastern states during the coming few days.

The sources added that the Egyptian ambassador conveyed to the U.S. envoy an Egyptian report that focused on the recent Al-'Aqabah summit of President Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and 'Arafat.

The report asked the U.S. Administration to adopt the Arab peace option, taking into consideration it does not conflict with the issue of Israeli security and that it will help bring about peace and stability in the region.

Recognition of Lebanese Government Withheld
JN1411115788 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
12 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Egyptian diplomatic circles have affirmed that Egypt refuses at present to recognize the Lebanese civilian government under Salim al-Huss. It also refuses to recognize the military government under Michel 'Awn.

Egypt justifies this stand by stating it is concerned over Lebanon's unity. These circles also say Egypt seeks through its consultations with Arab and European countries to end the current Lebanese crisis.

The Foreign Ministry has issued strict orders to the Egyptian ambassador in Lebanon, Hasan Shash, to deal with the Lebanese parties and send periodic reports on developments in the Lebanese arena.

The diplomatic circles state Egypt has not received any promises from the two sides and has not held contacts with respect to the official resumption of diplomatic relations between Cairo and Beirut.

The Foreign Ministry has also issued a circular to all of its departments not to comment on the current Lebanese crisis or the Egyptian stand on the two governments.

Egypt has rejected a request from some Arab countries to recognize Salim al-Huss' government. Egypt also is exerting intensive efforts to halt the recurrent Israeli aggressions.

AL-AKHBAR on Bush's Win, Future U.S. Policy
JN1311200088 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
10 Nov 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Dukakis' Defeat and the Lesson To Learn From It"]

[Text] The grave defeat inflicted on Democratic Party candidate Michael Dukakis by George Bush, U.S. vice president and Republican Party candidate, in the U.S. presidential elections provides new proof that the Jewish vote is not an effective factor in these elections. The legend that Jewish votes are effective is propagated by the Zionist groups and the news media controlled by Jews.

Dukakis' defeat was almost certain 1 or more months before people cast their votes, despite the extremely generous promises and pledges declared by the Democratic candidate and his Jewish wife, particularly in New York State, the bastion of U.S. Jews.

Dukakis even promised to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel despite the fact that all previous U.S. Governments, whether Republican or Democratic, refused to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem or to recognize Jerusalem's annexation to Israel and its being the capital of Israel because this would be a flagrant violation of many international resolutions.

However, this does not mean Bush did not make promises to Israel to satisfy the U.S. Jews and gain their support in the presidential elections. Nevertheless, Bush did not go as far as Dukakis regarding these promises. Perhaps, Dukakis' defeat—despite making such promises—will prompt him to reconsider the truth about the Jews' real ability to steer the U.S. voters as they like.

At any rate, George Bush's leadership of the next U.S. Government may have some advantages, such as cutting short the time needed by any future government to study matters before crystallizing its view on various problems related to foreign policy. The new president spent 8 years alongside Ronald Reagan and joined him in one way or another in following up international issues.

The Reagan administration, in which George Bush has participated during the President's two terms of office, adopted some stands showing a genuine desire to contribute to the resolution of Middle East conflicts and also to help restore peace in the region.

We hope the new resident of the White House will resume attempts by his predecessor from the point where they reached and not from their starting point.

Libya

Reportage on Visit by Sudanese Prime Minister

Arrives 13 Nov

LD1311140388 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese prime minister, arrived at noon today in the municipality of the Gulf of Defiance [Gulf of Sidra] in a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

There was an official reception ceremony for Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi at the airport of the Gulf of Defiance, where Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, was at the forefront of those receiving him. [passage omitted]

Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is accompanied by a delegation that included Major General ('Abd al-Rahim Sulayman 'Abd al-Rahim), from the People's Armed Forces; (Mahdi al-Makki al-Shaykh), governor of the Central Bank; and (Hamad al-Zubayr Hamad al-Malik), member of the Political Bureau of the Ummah Party.

Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi made a statement to JANA in which he stressed the strength of the fraternal links between the Arab peoples of the two fraternal countries. He pointed out: As sons of the same nation, we must continue to consult each other about the various issues of mutual interest. This is another link in the chain of these consultations.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1311200888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1859 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Gulf of Defiance [Gulf of Sidra], 13 Nov (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister of sister Sudan.

The meting was attended by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

Meets With Army Leader

LD1411113788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Gulf of Sidra, 14 Nov (JANA)—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Commander in Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, conferred this morning with Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of fraternal Sudan.

During this meeting, which was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and the Sudanese ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, they discussed the measures needed to consolidate and bolster cooperation in the interest of the sons of the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries.

Leaves 14 Nov

LD1411121588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Gulf of Sidra, 14 Nov (JANA)—This morning, Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of fraternal Sudan, left Surt municipality airport after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

There was an official ceremony to see him off at the airport. Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces was prominent among those seeing him off. [passage omitted]

Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi made a statement to JANA's correspondent in which he said: The meeting was, as usual, fraternal and frank. We discussed joint Arab, Islamic, African and bilateral issues, and our views coincided on all these issues.

He added: This meeting was a link in a chain of meetings aimed at organizing the Arab people in the two fraternal countries during the current circumstances, and it will be followed, God willing, by a visit by a Libyan Arab delegation to Sudan to continue the discussion and agreement on these issues.

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on PNC, 'Missiles'

LD1411110588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1035 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Nov (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to JANA. Among other things, he said:

The PNC's recognition of the Zionist existence, whether implicitly or explicitly, has no bearing on the Arab-Zionist conflict of existence. The missiles [as received], with a range of miles, and supplied with nuclear warheads, which were made by the Zionists at the expense of the Star Wars budget, are not directed against the Palestinians, but against every Arab city from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

Therefore, the Arab nation, led by the new angry generation, is by necessity—it has no other option—called upon to remove the Zionist entity. Otherwise it will accept its own annihlation and the cancellation of its future.

Jallud, Others To 'Specialize' in Arab Affairs

LD1311235088 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution has decided that each member of the leadership will specialize in a number of Arab arenas.

First: Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud—Syria and Algeria.

Second: Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir—Egypt, Sudan, and the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Yemeni arenas.

Third: Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi—the area of the Gulf.

Fourth: Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi—Tunisia and Morocco.

All this is to enable the leadership of the revolution to follow up the unionist work, this being the most urgent issue which strongly reflects Arab reality. It is also in adherence with the leading role shouldered by the great 1 September Revolution and to promote Arab reality, making it more responsive to this historical transformation process.

The idea is to follow up the project of an Arab Federation submitted by the brother leader to the Arab states and to carry out the required intensive contacts and dialogues to complete the crystallization of this project in a practical and tangible form. The Arab states will be informed of this.

Chadian Ambassador Presents Credentials, Speaks

LD1011151588 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today received the credentials of the ambassador of the Republic of Chad to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Chadian ambassador presented his credentials, and gave a speech in which he conveyed greetings from President Hussein Habre and the Chadian people to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people. He also stressed the solid historical ties existing between the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and the people of Chad.

He said: Chad and the Jamahiriyah are not only two neighboring states, but they share a common history and are linked by deep-rooted, fraternal, cultural, and cordial relations. He indicated that there are deep feelings and reasons far beyond neighborliness which must push our two countries and two peoples to preserve cordial relations and effective cooperation and solidarity, as the Libyans and the Chadians fought side by side against the Italian colonialists, who forced thousands of Libyan families to flee to Chad.

The new Chadian ambassador hailed the resumption of normal relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad following the removal of the obstacles obstructing our efforts for economic and social development. He added: It is an extremely important move in the joint endeavor for peace and understanding aspired to by the Chadian people.

He also expressed Chad's readiness to reach a peaceful settlement on all the disagreements, and to develop relations of neighborliness within the framework of the OAU so as to enhance fruitfil cooperation to the benefit of the Libyan Arab people and the people of Chad, and to develop the capabilities and efforts that guarantee mutual interest.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, in a reply speech, welcomed the new Chadian ambassador. He stressed the Great Jamahiriyah's eagerness to deepen the bonds of fraternity and friendship between the two sistely countries on the basis of mutual respect, trust, and the firm principle of respect for the will of the peoples to liberate themselves from all forms of domination and dependency, and to take pride in the purity of their culture and civilization in accordance with historical facts.

Ties With Chad Praised

LD1011183788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 10 Nov (JANA)—The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today received the credentials of the ambassador of the Republic of Chad to the great Jamahiriyah. The Chadian ambassador presented his credentials, and gave a speech in which he conveyed greetings from President Hissein Habre and the Chadian people to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab People. [passage omitted]

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Relations said in this context: "We are proud of the relations of brotherhood between our two peoples owing to the religion, the proximity, the intermixing of blood and culture, and common history."

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison added:

"Our belief in the deep-rooted relations between us and our conscious awareness of the unity of our continent's fate are the factors behind the initiative of the brother leader on the occasion of the OAU's 25th anniversary. On his instructions we are working to implement the

terms of this initiative, which was well received by his brothers leaders in Africa and which resulted in the resumption of diplomatic relations between our two countries and in your presence here among us. We see in this presence the determination of our brethren in Chad to go ahead with the consolidation of cooperation between our two countries in order to achieve confirmation of their freedom and aspirations in all spheres."

He continued:

"We in the great Jamahiriyah are eager to overcome all the difficulties which have obstructed the excellent historical relations between our two countries through a direct dialogue in order to realize our aspirations for the sake of construction and fraternity. This matter is in line with the historical responsibility assumed by our predecessors in the fight against colonialism when our two countries were subjected to foreign invasion."

The secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison added:

"Our African Continent needs joint efforts in order to overcome all the obstacles which obstruct its development process. To this effect, we confirm the elimination of all disagreements between the sons of this continent so that we devote ourselves to finding adequate solutions to our political, economic, and cultural problems which impede the progress of the peoples of the continent. Special mention should be made of the attempts made by some imperialist powers to impose their hegemony and also the problem of foreign debts and the racist regime in South Africa. These issues can only be overcome through collective solidarity within the framework of the OAU."

In conclusion, he expressed his confidence that the new Chadian ambassador will work, through the mission entrusted upon him, toward consolidating the relations of brotherhood and friendship between our two countries in order to deepen the militant, political, and economic ties between the Libyan people and the fraternal people of Chad.

Finally, he asked the Chadian ambassador to convey greetings from the brother leader of the revolution to the Chadian President Hissein Habre. He also stated that the ambassador will find all the necessary facilities to ensure the success of his mission in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Malian Foreign Minister Ends Visit, Departs

LD1011162588 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Modibo Keita, Mali's minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, left Tripoli this morning at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He had talks and meetings with a view to developing and consolidating the fruitful relations of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Mali.

In a statement to JANA before leaving Tripoli international airport, Modibo Keita praised the positive and fruitful results of his meetings and his talks, and said:

"My meetings and talks took place in very good conditions in this African country which has realized many concrete achievements."

The Malian minister of foreign affairs also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the brother leader of the revolution for the warm welcome given to him.

Sudan

Omdurman Radio on Rescue of UAE Ambassador

EA1011211888 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1308 GMT 10 Nov 88

[From a report citing AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH]

[Excerpt] In a heroic operation, a unit of the Thunderbolt Forces commanded by Major General Ahmad Badani Makki, commander of the 9th Parachute Division, managed, at about 1500 yesterday afternoon, Wednesday, to rescue the UAE ambassador and five embassy staff in an operation lasting no more than 1 minute.

Our sources say that a person had stormed the UAE Embassy in Khartoum and detained the ambassador and five embassy staff members. The sources say an individual with a Gulf accent and Eritrean features demanded the release of some individuals detained in Abu Dhabi and refused to speak with any Sudanese official.

The individual then telephoned the office of Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, the UAE crown prince in Abu Dhabi, demanding the release of those detained in Abu Dhabi in return for the release of the UAE ambassador and the Embassy staff in Khartoum.

Air Force Major General (Rtd) al-Fatih Abdun, commissioner of the national capital, said that after being notified about the incident the national capital Security Committee met and decided that the embassy must be stormed. The committee contacted the general command of the Armed Forces which charged Maj Gen Ahmad Badani Makki with the task.

A unit of the Thunderbolt Forces then stormed the embassy building at 1500, successfully freeing all the hostages within 1 minute and arresting the man.

The commissioner said: On being searched, the individual was found to be a Sudanese national in possession of a handbag containing explosives.

The commissioner said: This incident is unconnected with the Acropol Hotel incident because this individual had not demanded the release of the Acropol detainees and had not mentioned them. [passage omitted]

'Unknown Individuals' Attack Party Leader's Home

NC1111082688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0723 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Nov (MENA)—Unknown individuals fired several shots at the home of Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Union Party in Sudan, in the Khartoum 2 area at 2100 yesterday. The culprits escaped and no casualties occurred.

Sudanese police forces deployed and surrounded the area, closing the streets leading to it. Patrols also began searching for the culprits.

It is worth noting that Al-Mirghani will leave Khartoum for Addis Ababa tomorrow at the head of a delegation to meet with Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, to discuss ways of establishing peace in southern Sudan.

Official Details Attack

JN1111125088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1208 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Nov (INA)—Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], has described the armed attack against DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani's house last night as an empty attempt to obstruct the DUP's efforts to end war and bring about peace in southern Sudan.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Khartoum, he said this incident will make the DUP more determined to end fighting in the south and achieve peace in order to reconstruct Sudan. Husayn revealed details about the attack. He said an unknown group called at the DUP headquarters asking about Muhammad Tawfiq, member of the DUP Political Bureau and member of the delegation to negotiations with the Garang movement.

Afterward, the group left for the house of Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn for the same purpose. Then, the group left for 'Uthman al-Mirghani's house and carried out an attack against it because the culprits imagined that all were there holding a final meeting prior to departure for Addis Ababa.

The INA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that three gunmen with Kalashnikov machineguns launched the attack.

Members of the Sudanese DUP delegation left for Addis Ababa this morning to make the final arrangements for the visit of DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani who will leave for the Ethiopian capital at dawn tomorrow. He will be accompanied by his deputy Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn to meet with Colonel John Garang.

The DUP deputy leader explained that Al-Mirghani and Col Garang will officially declare during this meeting an agreement which was previously concluded between the DUP and Garang movement delegations in the detailed talks held in Addis Ababa in August and October.

INA Reports Attack on AL-WATAN Offices

JN1211064588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Nov (INA)—An INA correspondent in Khartoum has said that the offices of the AL-WATAN newspaper were attacked last night by members of the Islamic Front.

The correspondent said the employees of the newspaper were able to arrest a number of the attackers, who tried to set the building on fire, and handed them over to the Sudanese security authorities.

5 Israeli Officers Reportedly Killed in South

EA1211155988 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Press sources in Kuwait report that five Israeli officers, including two belonging to the Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, were killed recently in southern Sudan.

The Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said they were killed during battles between the Sudanese Armed Forces and those of agent John Garang, thus corroborating the movement's agent nature and its linkage with foreign forces striving to fragment the unity of the homeland.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Chairs Cabinet Meeting 9 Nov

LD0911231388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali presided over the regular cabinet meeting, which was held this morning at the Government Palace in Carthage. Following the meeting, the information minister stated that the cabinet listened to reports about the expected achievements for this year and the development plan for 1989, the preparation for next year state budget, the national plan to combat locusts, and the outcome of the international gathering held in Fes.

The cabinet then considered a number of proposals concerning the approval of cooperation agreements and bills and the creation of an Islamic studies center in

Al-Qayrawan for university services. The cabinet also looked into a bill concerning the amendment of the rules of the Labor Council and the state budget of 1984.

The president opened the cabinet meeting by emphasizing that 1989 will be the year to start studying the major, fateful national dossiers on education, health, regional development, energy, water, and agricultural and industrial strategies. The examination of these major dossiers coincides with the start of the preparations for the next development plan on solid and fateful grounds.

Opposition Figure Made Ambassador to Austria
LD1311121588 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] There has been another sign of opening up in Tunisia. An opposition figure and defender of human rights has just been named to a diplomatic post. His name is Dali Jazi, secretary general of the Tunisian Human Rights League. He is also No 2 in the MDS, the Movement of Socialist Democrats. He has just been appointed ambassador to Vienna.

This is the first appointment of its kind and it raises many questions. Here is an explanation from our correspondent, [name indistinct]:

[Correspondent] The possibility of Dali Jazi's appointment as ambassador provoked a general outcry a few days ago within the main opposition party, the Movement of Socialist Democrats, of which he was deputy general secretary.

This appointment, which is the first of its kind in Tunisia, is considered by some as an attempt to infiltrate the MDS and by others, on the contrary, as an opening up to the opposition.

Bahrain

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives From Kuwait

JN0811174088 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, Nov 8 (GNA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Manama this evening from Kuwait for a two-day visit to Bahrain as part of his tour of a number of GCC states.

King Husayn was received by H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Crown Prince and Acting Premier Shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, and other top officials.

King Husayn will hold talks with H.H. the Amir on means of developing bilateral relations and developments in the Arab arena including the situation in Lebanon, the issue of holding an Arab summit concerning Lebanon and developments of the Palestinian cause.

Talks With Amir

JN0811194088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Manama—Talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, began in Manama this evening. The talks dealt with bolstering the solid relations between Jordan and Bahrain, the developments of the current situation in the Arab arena, and His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to support joint Arab action, in addition to the current developments in the Gulf region and the Palestinian arena and issues of common concern. The two Arab leaders exchanged viewpoints on issues of concern to the Arab homeland.

The talks were attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa, heir apparent and acting prime minister.

Departs for Qatar

JN0911103588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Jordanian King Husayn left Manama for Doha at noon today at the end of a 2-day official visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of GCC countries.

Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah was at the head of those who saw King Husayn off.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister; ministers; the Jordanian ambassador in Manama; and senior state and military officials were also present to bid farewell to his majesty.

His highness the amir of Bahrain and Jordanian King Husayn today completed the talks they began yesterday. The talks dealt with the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries, ways to support joint Arab action, current developments in the Arab arena—particularly the Palestinian cause—developments in the Arabian Gulf region, and issues of mutual interest.

Heir Apparent Leaves for Visit to Britain

JN1311162688 Manama WAKH in English 1546 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, Nov 13 (GNA)—Bahrain's Crown Prince and Acting Prime Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah left here today for Britain for a several days' visit.

He was seen off by h.h. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, ministers and other top officials.

Shaykh Hamad is expected to meet with Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and heir to the throne Prince of Wales Prince Charles.

Kuwait

Jordanian King Arrives for Talks, Departs

LD0811151688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1440 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 8 (KUNA)—King Husayn of Jordan and his accompaning delegation arrived here at 2 p.m. today on a brief visit to Kuwait. The Jordanian monarch was received at the airport by H.H. the amir, acting premier and foreign minister, minister of the amiri diwan affairs and the ambassador of Jordan to Kuwait.

Following talks between King Husayn and H.H. the amir, the minister of the amiri diwan stated that they dealt with progress of current Iraqi-Iranian peace negotiations, developments of the Palestinian uprising, the Lebanese question, Arab events and bilateral ties.

King Husayn left Kuwait after a two-hour stay and was seen off by H.H. the amir, acting premier and foreign minister, minister of the amiri diwan affairs and the Jordanian ambassador in Kuwait.

Soviet Air Defense Forces Commander Visits

LD1211174488 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The chief of general staff, Major General Mazyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani', conferred today with Commander of the Soviet Air Defense Forces General Chesnokov, who is visiting Kuwait.

KUNA reports that they discussed bilateral relations and some military issues of mutual interest.

Crown Prince Returns From Saudi Arabia

LD1211214988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1538 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 12 (KUNA)—H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah returned home Saturday [12 November] after winding up an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, followed by a private visit during which h.h. performed umra (minor pilgrimage).

H.H. was received upon arrival at Kuwait international airport by chief of National Guards Shaykh Salim al-'Ali, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, ministers, shaykhs, top government officials.

Qatar

Jordan's King Husayn Visits During Gulf Tour

JN0911200588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Jordanian King Husayn arrived in Doha at noon today on a short working visit to Qatar as part of a tour of the countries in the region.

Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani was at the head of those who welcomed the Jordanian monarch and his delegation. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, was also present to welcome King Husayn and his delegation.

Discusses Lebanon, 'Uprising'

JN0911154488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1406 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Official talks between Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, who is currently visiting Doha, started here today.

The discussions were attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense.

A responsible official stated to the QNA after the discussions ended that his highness the Qatari amir and the Jordanian monarch reviewed during the discussions all new developments in the region in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

The two leaders expressed their hopes that the current negotiations between the two Muslim neighbors, Iran and Iraq, will continue. The goals of these negotiations are to establish fixed bases for a permanent, comprehensive peace between the two countries according to UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which ensures the legitimate rights of both countries and achieves peace and security in the region.

The source added that the two Arab leaders exchanged views on means to ensure support for and strengthen joint Arab action and achieve comprehensive solidarity to enable the Arab nation to realize its noble pan-Arab goals. He indicated that King Husayn informed the Qatari amir of the good, positive results of the recent tripartite summit in Al-'Aqabah and the following discussions on coordination and cooperation between Jordan and the PLO in this important and fateful stage that the Palestine question is going through. This stage requires concentrated efforts to support the brave uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories until this people regain their legitimate national rights according to the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions through an international peace conference under the auspices of the international organization.

The source went on to say that the situation in Lebanon was given a great deal of attention during the discussions between the two sides. The two viewpoints were identical on the need for the Lebanese brothers to overcome their disputes and unify ranks, since that is the ideal way to overcome the Lebanese crisis. At the same time, there should be a joint and practical Arab effort to bring this fraternal country out of its current crisis and restore its unity and security.

The source added that the discussions—charaterized by a spirit of understanding and amity—also dealt with the good, fraternal relations between Qatar and Jordan and means of promoting and strengthening them in various fields for the benefit of the two countries and peoples.

Concludes Visit, Leaves

JN0911155688 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Nov (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn left Doha for the Sultanate of Oman, concluding a brief visit to Qatar as part of his majesty's tour of a number of area states.

His majesty was seen off by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; and senior Qatari officials.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Concludes Visit

JN0911182088 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 9 (GNA)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati left Doha this evening ending a two day visit to Qatar.

During his stay, Besharati handed H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with fostering Iranian relations with Gulf states and the U.N. sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq. He also held talks with top Qatari officials on means of promoting relations between Qatar and Iran.

Besharati arrived in Doha Tuesday for a visit to Qatar within a tour in the region, that so far included Oman and the UAE.

Saudi Arabia

Official Denies Crisis in Relations With Iraq

LD1011171488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh 10 Nov (SPA)—An official source has refuted the contents of an item published in the Paris-based bimonthly magazine 'ACTUALITES ARABES;

No 184/185 for the period up to 10 September 1988, under the title: Iraq, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: An Open Crisis. The information—contrary to reality, not based on any proof, and published under this title in this magazine—is totally untrue.

The source added: The brotherly and firm relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its sister the Iraqi Republic is too strong to be affected by such calumnies and machinations, which are attempts to spark incidents between brothers.

Government Agrees To Commercial Office in PRC

LD1211033088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Washington, 11 November 1988, SPA—Out of a desire to develop the commercial and economic relations existing between the peoples of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China which date from the past, the governments of the two countries have decided to set up offices of commercial representation in the two capitals. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Editors Interview King Fahd on Issues

On GCC, Iran

JN1011210488 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 9 Nov 88 pp 1, 22

[Text] Medina—The second part of the visit to Saudi Arabia by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, has been the crowning of the successful talks between the two sisterly countries. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, blessed the talks when he received the Kuwaiti heir apparent and the accompanying delegation at his place of residence in Medina.

The family meeting was warm and fraternal. It was a real expression of the strong relations between the two countries. This appeared in the talks exchanged by the custodian of the two holy mosques and his highness the heir apparent on the one hand and the accompanying delegations on the other.

The royal banquet lunch was delayed for 2 hours. During this time, the custodian of the two holy mosques answered questions of the accompanying Kuwaiti press delegation.

In this dialogue embarked on by our colleague, chief editor Ahmad al-Jarallah, King Fahd expressed his heartfelt happiness for the heir apparent's visit.

The custodian of the two holy mosques said: Shaykh Sa'd is now in his own country and among his kinfolk and brothers. I believe that the exchange of visits always achieves the best results. There is no doubt that the Gulf countries form one family—the doors are open among these countries. These countries should link together the interests of their peoples to benefit from the resources that God gave to them. Economic linkage is more important than political linkage because economic relations come first. This is an opportunity for regional states to work together to link the interests of their people.

As you know, the idea of cooperation and the establishment of the GCC was the proposal of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, at the [1980] Amman summit. The idea of his highness has become a reality. It unites people who have common conventions and social traditions. The opportunity now exists for these people to meet and link their interests. The idea of Shaykh Jabir was welcomed by all regional states. The GCC is an entity that represents a group of states that enjoy all the world's countries' appreciation and respect.

The custodian of the two holy mosques was asked for his opinion on the Iraq-Iran war. He was asked if it created estrangement among the Gulf states because of the different political stands on this war. He said: On the contrary, the Iraq-Iran war has increased the cooperation and unity of the Gulf states. It has strengthened these relations, not to say improved them. As you know, each union or bloc is exposed to such a stormy atmosphere. However, the GCC states are different—that is, differences among them do not prevent the implementation of what they have agreed upon.

Every Gulf state is free in the implementation of the joint agreements. Some of them implement the agreements and others postpone implementation until appropriate circumstanes arise. The differences in this regard do not obstruct the cooperative activities or freeze their march. This is the course of work within the Gulf framework. And this is what distinguishes the work of the Gulf states in their regular meetings.

On the Kuwaiti heir apparent's visit and his impressions on it, the custodian of the two holy mosques said: I welcome this visit and am pleased with it. Shaykh Sa'd came to his own country. We believe in the exchange of visits and in their advantage.

Asked if Iran has responded to his call for opening a new chapter launched at the opening of the Islamic information ministers' conference held recently in Jeddah, the custodian of the two holy mosques said: At our end, we stopped media campaigns against Iran. However, no contact has been held so far. We believe that Iran is an Islamic country in this region. However, at the same time, we do not believe in interfering in internal affairs. Iran is in a good position and possesses all the components of a good state. It has large lands, rivers, plains, valleys, and mountains. It has a population density. It has all that can enable it to live in peace without interfering in others' internal affairs. We want good relations with everyone. We want Iran to become a strength for Islam.

On Egypt's return to the Arab ranks and the Arab League, the custodian of the two holy mosques said: I hope that Egypt will return; in fact, I welcome this return.

On his announced visit to Cairo, the custodian of the two holy mosques said: I hope I will visit Egypt very soon. Yes, I will visit Cairo very soon.

On the GCC, the custodian of the two holy mosques said: The achievements of the GCC are considered a good thing in light of its age.

After this rich dialogue, everbody walked to the king's dining room.

On Jordan-PLO Ties, Lebanon

JN1011211488 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 9 Nov 88 pp 1, 26

[By 'Abdallah al-Shiti]

[Excerpts] Medina—During the luncheon which King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, hosted at Al-Taybah Palace in Medina at noon yesterday in honor of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, [Kuwaiti] heir apparent and prime minister, and the official and information delegation accompanying the prime minister, King Fahd held a dialogue with the editors in chief of daily papers who were present as guests at the luncheon.

'Abd al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id, the founder of AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, asked King Fahd about several topical issues in the Gulf and Arab arenas which needed detailed and frank answers from the custodian of the two holy mosques in light of the current circumstances through which the region and the Arab nation are passing. Al-Masa'id's questions revolved around the following points:

First: What about the return of fraternal Egypt to the Arab League, as many in this nation insist on the attainment of this pan-Arab demand?

Second: Does the custodian of the two holy mosques support the establishment of a confederation between Jordan and the PLO, particularly following the Al-'Aqabah meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and Jordanian King Husayn?

Third: How do you view the regrettable state of affairs in Lebanon, and how can one emerge from this tragic situation?

Fourth: Has a date been set for the custodian of the two holy mosques' visit to Egypt?

Other questions dealt with the Iraq-Iran war, the negotiations, and the peace era.

On a confederation between Jordan and the PLO, the custodian of the two holy mosques said: We are concerned about the relationship between Jordan and the Palestinian brothers. There were many discussions, and meetings took place. If an agreement is reached in this area, our stand is to support any agreement that is reached between the two parties concerned in the interest of all. We will support it with all our force.

On the Lebanese problem, King Fahd said: The Lebanese problem is basically the responsibility of the Lebanese. They are thinking about Lebanon's interest in a sound manner. The truth is that there has never been in the world two governments and conflicting stands. We hope that they will reach agreement on the objectives and stands to emerge from this crisis. Arab leaders should come to their assistance as much as they can to extricate Lebanon from this crisis. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques said: With respect to the Iraq-Iran war, the leaders of the countries in the region met before the war ended and united their ranks. Now peace negotiations are underway in Geneva. We harbor no hatred toward Iran. We want peace. We do not want others to harm us, and we do not want to harm others. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan on Defense Ties With France

PM0811161088 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Nov 88 pp1-2

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Prince Sultan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Saudi Arabia Anxious To Boost its Armament Without Restriction"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh—Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister, Defense and Aviation Minister, and Inspector General Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has emphasized that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is eager to boost its defense and armament capabilities from any source according to its own sovereignty and interests, without any restrictions or conditions.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Prince Sultan said: We conclude arms deals for our Armed Forces according to our needs and requirements and according to the plans drawn up by our military experts in the various sectors of the air, air defense, naval, and land forces.

Prince Sultan said he appreciates and is proud of the relations of cooperation between the Kingdom and France. He described these relations as "special" particularly with regard to cooperation in the armaments field. The French Government, he said, is cooperating and responding to our requirements and needs. He noted that joint projects between the two countries are being implemented to the best and highest standards.

Prince Sultan, who was talking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after his hour-long meeting yesterday with French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement—who is the first minister of the Rocard cabinet to visit Saudi Arabia—said that the meeting was positive and fruitful and that the two sides discussed ways to boost and increase cooperation between the two countries in the defense and armament fields.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that during the meeting the French defense minister submitted a list of new French military products including the multi-purpose fighter Rafale which will join the French Air Force in 1996.

Sources at the meeting said that the two sides agreed on new arms deals and left it to the military committees to discuss them and prepare military reports on them. They added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has no intention of purchasing French Mirage-4000 aircraft, and that this matter is not under consideration at present.

The sources confirmed that the agreement reached includes supplying the Saudi naval forces with warships and training Saudis on them.

The Saudi and French defense ministers exchanged gifts. [passage omitted]

Saudi Ambassador to France Jamil al-Hujaylan stated that yesterday's talks between Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and French Defense Minister Chevenement were "important" and were held in an atmosphere reflecting the depth of Saudi-French relations characterized by strength and mutual understanding and respect.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Ambassador al-Hujaylan said that the French defense minister's visit to the Saudi Kingdom at Prince Sultan's invitation confirms that the Saudi Kingdom's policy toward friendly states such as France does not change with the change of regimes. [passage omitted]

Al-Hujaylan added that during this visit the two sides explored all aspects of military cooperation. Such matters, he added, cannot be decided before study by technical experts. All I can say is that the atmosphere of the talks reflected the strength and the mutual respect and understanding that has always characterized Saudi-French relations.

He added that the French defense minister was extremely pleased with the spirit that pervaded the talks and with the talks as such. [passage omitted]

Information Minister on 8 Nov Cabinet Meeting

LD0911153988 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Summary] After last night's cabinet meeting, chaired by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said the king opened the meeting with a quick review of conditions in the Arab world, based on latest reports, and expressed satisfaction with inter-Arab relations. His majesty briefed the council members on the results of his talks with the Pakistani foreign minister, the Sudanese justice minister, and the French defense minister. After the king's remarks, the crown prince briefed the council on the Kuwaiti heir apparent's visit and described their talks as extremely successful. The council debated a report by the petroleum and planning minister that included the draft law of the Arab Oil Company, which the council approved. The council granted a gold mining concession to the General Establishment for Petroleum and Minerals and approved a number of appointments, the information minister said.

AL-YAWM Urges Bush To Resolve World Issues

JN1411092688 Al-Damman AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Nov 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Bush and Peace Opportunities"]

[Text] New U.S. President George Bush's victory has come at a difficult time in which many international issues have reached or will shortly reach unsecured crossing points. Therefore, many of these international issues are waiting for the new President, who is the leader of the world's biggest country, to push these issues onto more secure roads that will lead to effective and decisive answers that can produce radical solutions. Because the new U.S. President knew the secrets of U.S. domestic and foreign policy when he was the vice president to Reagan, his views will be more realistic after this long experience of real practice and participation in decisionmaking.

The world does not expect miracles from the new U.S. President. However, it is certain that Bush cannot ignore U.S. interests in the world. Consequently, winds of peace should blow toward the hot areas on this globe to curb its dangers and heat. There is still hope that the issue of peace in the Middle East as well as peace issues in the world will receive positive concern from the U.S. Administration after it comes under the rule of a strong man who enjoys a huge asset of the voters' confidence and a larger asset of political experience.

Like any other new president, George Bush has his own dreams and hopes of saving world peace and security from the storms of violent events moving many countries away from the coasts of security and peace and moving them toward the challenges of wars, riots, and disturbances.

Because George Bush has become one of the most prominent men in the world, the principles of freedom, human rights, and world peace constitute effective factors in defining his foreign policy out of the concern that the United States will always remain one of the major leaders of the free world, whose countries work to achieve more opportunities for a free and honorable life for contemporary mankind.

Reportage on 3d Round of Peace Negotiations

Negotiations Resume 10 Nov

JN1011165688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 10 Nov (INA)—Iraq and Iran resumed the direct negotiations at the Palais des Nations here this evening and held the sixth joint session on the ministerial level in the presence of Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations, arrived at the Palais des Nations a few minutes after the arrival of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his accompanying delegation.

UN sources said that the two delegations are heading to the hall of direct negotiations without holding two short separate meetings with the UN secretary general's representative. The work of the ministerial meetings is focused on procedural matters related to the implementation of the Security Council resolution.

Sixth Session Concludes

JN1011191088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 10 Nov (INA)—The ministerial meeting between Iraq and Iran concluded at 1800 Geneva local time. Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative, announced that the seventh joint session of the ministerial meeting will be held at 1000 tomorrow.

Seventh Session Begins

JN1111095588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0937 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 11 Nov (INA)—The seventh session of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran began on the ministerial level at the Palais des Nations in Geneva at 1200 Baghdad time today under the supervision of Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative.

The Iraqi side to the negotiations is led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, whereas the Iranian side is led by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister. These ministerial meetings discuss the measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598. At the end of this session, Jan Eliasson, UN secretary general's representative, will hold a press conference. He will discuss issues related to this round of negotiations.

3d Round Ends; Eliasson Comments

JN1111123288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 11 Nov (INA)—The seventh session of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran on the ministerial level concluded at the Palais des Nations in Geneva at 1300 Baghdad local time today. The session lasted 1 hour. By ending this session the third round of direct negotiations, which began on 31 October, concluded today.

Following the seventh session, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation, told reporters: I would like to bid farewell to you until we see you again in the next round which will be fixed by the UN secretary general. Tariq 'Aziz added he does not want to make any statement and will leave it to Mr Eliasson, UN secretary general's representative, to assess the outcome of this round's meetings. He said: I would like to say we are optimistic that the next round of negotiations will achieve progress. The foreign minister added that he asserted to both Mr Eliasson, UN secretary general's representative, and Perez de Cuellar that Iraq will genuinely and sincerely do its best so the next round will be fruitful.

Jan Eliasson, representative of the UN secretary general, announced officially at noon today the conclusion of the third phase of direct Iraq-Iran negatiations and added: I have to admit that we were unable to make progress on the essential issues. However, Eliasson said in a press conference held after the conclusion of the seventh session of the negotiations that the atmosphere of the talks was "constructive and positive." Eliasson added that the two sides affirmed anew their eagerness to respect the cease-fire resolution and to implement fully UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Eliasson continued: During this round of talks, seven joint ministerial sessions as well as a joint session on the experts' level were held in contrast to three sessions held during the first phase of the negotiations and one session held in New York.

The UN secretary general's representative said: I will not be divulging a secret when I say that we used to hold continuous and intensive contacts with the two sides even after the conclusion of the works of the ministerial sessions and that these contacts used to continue uninterrupted throughout the day. Answering a question on how the UN Security Council resolution will be implemented, the UN secretary general's representative said that the resolution is an indivisible whole as confirmed by the UN Security Council. On the other hand, there is an urgent need to make progress on the essential issues, he added.

On the exchange of POW's, Eliasson said that the two sides held direct contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross in this regard and added that an agreement has been reached to exchange registered sick and wounded POW's.

On whether the two sides conducted a direct dialogue inside the conference hall or whether the dialogue was being conducted through the UN delegation, Eliasson said: I would like to affirm once again that the dialogue

in the conference hall was being conducted directly and that the two sides were talking to each other directly. However, the dialogue was sometimes conducted through the UN delegation.

In reply to a question on whether these negotiations brought the two countries closer to war or peace, the UN secretary general's representative said: Certainly, a reeruption of the war has become a very remote possibility. We hope that there will be no chance for a reeruption of the war.

Concluding his press conference, Eliasson pointed out that he will leave for Geneva on Sunday, the day after tomorrow, and added that he will submit a report on the progress of the negotiations to Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday [14 November]. He went on to say that the UN secretary general will in turn prepare an expanded report on the negotiations to be submitted to the UN Security Council.

'Aziz Returns From Talks

JN1211192288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran, returned to Baghdad this evening. The third round of these negotiations ended in Geneva yesterday.

'Aziz was received at the airport by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and the two Foreign Ministry under secretaries.

Vice President Comments on Peace Talks, Kurds

PM1111101088 Paris LE FIGARO in French 9 Nov 88 p 4

[Interview with Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf by Claude Lorieux in Paris on 8 November]

[Text] An agreement with Iran on dredging the Shatt al-'Arab, this "vital channel" where sand, wreckage, and mines have accumulated over 8 years of war, is the main priority for Baghdad. Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf said that to LE FIGARO yesterday at the end of a 2-day official visit to France.

Mr Ma'ruf, who had talks with [French Prime Minister] Michel Rocard and [French Foreign Minister] Roland Dumas, explained the urgent need to do this by the risk of seeing the Iranian-Iraqi negotiations in Geneva marking time. "If the question of the Shatt al-'Arab is left out of the negotiations and they are not concluded until 1990, Iraq will be left with this vital waterway still blocked," he said. "We will be deprived of the Shatt al-'Arab, whereas the Iranians will still have their Gulf ports."

Mr Ma'ruf stressed that the dredging of this waterway—which is the outlet to the Gulf of the Tigris and Euphrates—is a "technical matter." So, if Tehran agrees to carry out dredging operations, that would have no influence on "the legal situation and the status" of the estuary. Baghdad and Tehran are known to disagree on the border: The Iranians are adhering to the 1975 Algiers agreement, which fixed the border in the middle of the waterway; the Iraqis dispute this agreement—secured by the Shah at the height of his power and violated by the Khomeyni regime, according to them.

"The two countries," the Iraqi vice president stressed, "will benefit from the Shatt al-'Arab. The Iranians will be guaranteed freedom of navigation."

When he was told that Baghdad's inflexibility on this question is delaying the release of prisoners of war, Mr Ma'ruf protested. Iraq has accepted the offer by the International Red Cross to carry out a "complete exchange" whereas Iran has "linked this question with another paragraph in Resolution 598" of the United Nations. However, he noted Tehran's "presumed but not yet official agreement" for an exchange of sick or wounded prisoners (413 Iranians in Iraq and 1,115 Iraqis in Iran.)"

Mr Ma'ruf expressed his view on other subjects:

1—The presence in Iraq of Mas'ud Rajavi's Mojahedin-e Khalq (armed opponents of Khomeyni) who were formerly installed in France: "They have freedom of action. But, when a peace agreement is signed with Iran, it will imply noninterference in the other country's affairs." Meanwhile, the Mojahedin-e Khalq are "welcome guests...they are not doing anything to hinder the peace process."

2—Chemical warfare: Mr Ma'ruf sees "no problem" in Iraq participating in the conference on chemical weapons to be held in Paris in January. Baghdad, he stressed, has not used toxic gas since hostilities ended. But the vice president, who is himself Kurdish, reaffirmed, "we used all available means against the aggression." The Kurdish civilian deaths can be explained "by the fact that those who were fighting were often surrounded by civilians."

3—Kurdish problem: "The amnesty (decreed by President Saddam Husayn after the July offensive—LE FIGARO editor's note) is unlimited." There are two reasons for the displacement of Kurdish civilians: either the evacuation of border zones in accordance with the Algiers agreement, or the evacuation of valleys in the interior "because of the rebels who were taking refuge in the villages." A repatriation program is planned.

Countering statements by Kurdish organizations in exile, he stressed that "population transfers (during the war—LE FIGARO editor's note) took place inside the Kurdish region and not outside it."

4—Relations with France: Prime Minister Michel Rocard, who agreed in principle to make an official visit to Baghdad, "reacted positively to the wish that France should play an important part in the revival and rebuilding of the Iraqi economy."

On POW Exchange, Other Issues

JN1011195288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Paris, 10 Nov (INA)—Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, has said that Iraq has immediately accepted the proposal by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] on comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war between Iraq and Iran in isolation from the current talks but the Iranian side rejected this proposal.

In a statement carried today by Radio Orient in Paris, the vice president said that he hopes the comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war will be achieved in the quickest time and that it will not be connected to Resolution No 598 because the international resolutions concerning the exchange of prisoners of war call for this.

The vice president pointed out that there is a possibility to achieve progress in the current Geneva talks if the Iranian side shows the required positivism toward the completion of the arrangements to strengthen the cease-fire, which has been observed on land, at sea, and in the air, and the guarantee of free navigation in the Gulf.

Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf said: When Iran agrees to these two subjects, which we do not consider as conditions, then other steps can be easily implemented. He pointed out that although they face difficulties, the Geneva talks have not reached a deadlock because both sides are still negotiating. He said that from the beginning, Iraq explained its position in its concern for achieving a permanent, comprehensive peace to end the disputes with Iran once and for all.

The vice president added: We wish the Kurds, wherever they may be, to have the same rights enjoyed by the Kurds in Iraq under self-autonomy. However, it is not Iraq's policy to interfere in the affairs of other countries in which Kurds live.

The vice president said that Iraq highly praises the French stands toward Iraq during the war and on other Arab issues. He explained that France has supported Iraq in its peaceful calls to reach a lasting and honorable peace in the conflict with Iran. He described Iraqi-French relations as excellent.

The vice president said that Iraq welcomes any collective, joint Arab effort to resolve all unresolved Arab disputes and to coordinate efforts. He said that Iraq will not hesitate to respond to any call it receives to participate in any joint Arab effort or action on all levels.

'Aziz Signs Memo With Red Cross on POW's

JN1111202388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 11 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon signed a memorandum of understanding with Cornelio Somaruga, chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] on the exchange of the sick and wounded POW's of the Iraq-Iran war.

This took place during a 20-minute meeting Tariq 'Aziz held with Somaruga at the ICRC headquarters.

Following the meeting, the foreign minister told reporters that the memorandum contained Iraq's official acceptance as regards the issue of the exchange of these POW's.

'Aziz added that he informed Somaruga of Iraq's readiness to supply the ICRC with a list containing the names of all Iranian POW's who have not been registered so far. He went on to say that he showed the ICRC chairman the files containing lists of the names of these POW's.

Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq is ready to hand in these lists to the ICRC once the Iranians do likewise. He added: I hope that the other side will respond favorably to this offer.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out: As for this issue, there are no differences in interpretation, as Article 122 of the third Geneva convention of 1949 stipulates that the two sides must announce the names of POW's even during the period of hostilities.

'Aziz added: This issue must be immediately consummated for humanitarian reasons. As for us, we have done our best and demonstrated our sincere readiness in this regard—a readiness that is in harmony with the third Geneva convention.

INA on POW Agreement

JN1111211088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 11 Nov (INA)—The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has announced that Iraq and Iran reached an agreement to exchange all sick and wounded POW's on 20 November.

In a statement issued this afternoon after Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the Geneva negotiations, and the ICRC chairman had signed a memorandum in this regard, the ICRC said that the exchange operation will involve approximately 1,500 Iraqi and Iranian POW's.

The ICRC statement added that the two sides will supply the ICRC with the names of the POW's who will be exchanged before 5 December. The statement went on to say that the entire exchange operation will be completed by 31 December. This exchange operation involves the

sick and wounded POW's registered with the ICRC. Iraq has displayed its readiness to take a similar step involving unregistered POW's. Iran has not demonstrated an acceptance of this Iraqi offer.

Earlier, Tariq 'Aziz informed ICRC Chairman Cornelio Somaruga during a meeting with him today of Iraq's full readiness to provide the ICRC with lists of the names of all Iranian POW's who have not so far been registered with the ICRC if Iran reciprocates the measure.

This agreement followed direct negotiations by the ICRC during the period 2-11 November with the Iraqi and Iranian delegations. These negotations were held on the sidelines of the direct negotiations that were concluded in Geneva at noon today under the supervision of the United Nations.

Information Minister on Rafsanjani Remarks

JN1311130088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has affirmed that the Iranian officials will be the only ones held responsible for their behavior before the Iranian people and the international community if they allow themselves to slip into a course that provides additional evidence of their lack of faith in peace.

This came in comments by the minister on statements made by Hashemi Rafsanjani and aired by Tehran radio yesterday—statements in which Rafsanjani explicitly referred to the possibility of Iran's resumption of the war. In these statements, Rafsanjani said: We must either attain peace or return to war. Also, he asked the revolutionary committees to prepare themselves to shoulder serious responsibilities dictated by the war.

The culture and information minister added: These statements, which were made when the direct Iraq-Iran negotiations have been continuing to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598, provide tangible evidence confirming the evil intentions nesting in the minds of Rafsanjani and the pillars of his regime. These statements also reveal the falsehood of their allegations regarding their acceptance of peace. Furthermore, they expose their methods of procrastination, deception, and prevarication, which they are demonstrating to obstruct and prolong the ongoing Iraq-Iran negotiations.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim affirmed that while deeply and responsibly asserting its eagerness to observe the ceasefire, displaying great efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598, and demonstrating a deep faith in peace, Iraq finds in Rafsanjani's statements a manifestation of a serious course that must be heeded by the international community. He added: Rafsanjani knows quite well that Iraq is not rocked by threats, as it is the party that brought about peace and also the party that safeguards and clings to it.

The culture and information minister warned against the slippage by the Iranian officials into this serious course and said: They will be the only ones held responsible for these practices before the Iranian people and the international community. He stressed that this course provides new evidence confirming the lack of faith in peace on the part of the Iranian officials as well as their responsibility for the failure of the direct Iraq-Iran negotiations to reach decisive results so far.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim called on the Iranian officials to stop making such irresponsible statements and to stop tampering with peace.

Ramadan Receives Polish, Australian Ministers

JN0811180688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Bogumil Ferensztajn, Polish minister of land management and construction industry, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting—atended by the Polish ambassador in Baghdad—bilateral relations were reviewd. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress of these relations and a desire to find new prospects to help promote cooperation between the two countries. The two sides expressed a joint desire for the meetings of the Iraqi-Polish joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation to be distinguished in discussing prospects of cooperation and expanding it in light of the new circumstances.

Mr Ramadan also received Australian Trade Negotiations Minister Michael Duffy and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting—attended by the Australian ambassador in Baghdad—bilateral relations were reviewd, and satisfaction was expressed with their development. A joint desire to promote and expand these relations in the fields of economy and trade was stressed. The Australian minister expressed admiration for the development in Iraq and underlined his country's desire to promote its economic and trade ties with Iraq.

Polish Minister on Ties

JN0811181588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Bogumil Ferensztajn, Polish minister of land management and construction industry, has stressed that the forthcoming stage will witness broader cooperation between Iraq and Poland.

In a press statement here today, he said that cooperation will cover the fields of trade, industry, technology, science, art, health, and communications. He explained that the size of trade exchange between the two countries has reached $270 million, compared to $200 million last year.

Herzog Entrusts Shamir With Forming Government
TA1411112688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] President Hayim Herzog a few minutes ago entrusted Yitzhaq Shamir with the task of trying to form a new government. This is reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

The Labor Party ministers do not reject outright joining a Shamir-led government, but their party will not initiate this move; they prefer to wait and see what the Likud will do. Alignment sources said at the end of the party ministers meeting that they doubt Yitzhaq Shamir's willingness to make practical proposals of an egalitarian nature vis-a-vis the Alignment ministers. Our correspondent Razi Barqay notes that even if the Alignment goes into the opposition, Shim'on Peres does not intend to give up his leadership of the party.

Differences in the views of Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin emerged during the Alignment ministers meeting. Mr Peres said the Alignment should respond positively to Shamir's appeal, even if only out of courtesy. Yitzhaq Rabin said that in his opinion, under the circumstances one should definitely consider the possibility of a government in which the Alignment and the Likud will feature prominently, under conditions acceptable to the Alignment, of course. He admitted that reference is to a Shamir-led government and not to rotation. Several other Alignment ministers shared Rabin's view in favor of such an effort.

Shamir Accepts Task of Forming New Government
TA1411120788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir upon accepting the task of forming the new government conferred upon him by President Hayim Herzog, at the president's residence in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Honorable President of the State,

I thank you very much for entrusting me with the important and very responsible task of forming a government in Israel. I will do my best, within the limits of the time at my disposal, to form a government as soon as possible—a government that will manage the state's affairs effectively, faithfully, and responsibly, in accordance with the needs of the state and the demands of the public as reflected in the latest elections.

I will approach all the parties that will agree to take part in a government led by the Likud, and I will offer them participation in the government based on terms we will agree upon.

As is known, I have always advocated a broad-based government—what we termed a national unity government 4 years ago. Today, too, I believe that such a structure answers or could provide the right answer to the state's problems and needs. I will try my best to persuade all sectors of the public so that this time we will again be able to form such a government, which would act on the basis of full mutual understanding among its components and which would be able to guide the country toward meeting its objectives.

The government I will form—should I succeed in forming one, with God's will—will consider vast efforts to promote the peace process and to arrive at a dialogue and a settlement with our neighbors one of its topmost objectives.

I am cognizant and aware of the worry and apprehension felt by Jews in the diaspora, particularly by U.S. Jewry, concerning matters of legislation which have been an issue in the current deliberations surrounding the establishment of a government in Israel. As is known, the outgoing government under my leadership made considerable efforts to arrive at a dialogue and compromise solutions in order to avoid discord among the Jewish people.

We will pursue those efforts. I would like to hope that all circles of the Jewish people will display their utmost goodwill and will heed our request to move toward a dialogue or solutions that will allow for the unity of the Jewish people. Thank you very much.

SHAS, Agudat To Support Likud-led Government
TA1311213988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] The possibility of forming a government led by Yitzhaq Shamir and enjoying the support of 61 Knesset members emerged this evening, after Agudat Yisra'el and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] promised their support to the Likud. SHAS has already notified the president of the state about its decision. Its members are also urging the prime minister to include Degel Hatora in the coalition.

At the end of his meeting with the president, Rabbi Peretz [SHAS leader] said that if it turned out that Degel Hatora qualified for a ministerial portfolio, it should be given one.

In the negotiations with the Likud, it was agreed that Rabbi Der'i of SHAS would be appointed construction minister, while Rabbi Peretz would be appointed deputy prime minister and interior minister. SHAS would also have two deputy ministers. People in SHAS said that the scales were tipped this evening by Mr Shamir's call on Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. Shamir promised the latter that the Knesset would pass the conversion law within 3 months. This law would empower rabbinical courts in Israel to check and approve conversions to Judaism carried out in the diaspora.

Agudat Yisra'el will also ask the president to entrust Mr Shamir with the task of forming the next government. On behalf of Mr Shamir, Minister Sharon promised Agudat Yisra'el the Immigration Absorption and the Labor and Welfare portfolios, as well as the jobs of two deputy ministers and the chairmanship of the Knesset Finance Committee. According to the decision of the Council of Torah Sages, however, Agudat Yisra'el members will not serve as ministers, but only as ministerial directors general in the next government. No decision has yet been made on the question of deputy ministers.

Minister Shim'on Peres awaited the decisions of SHAS and Agudat Yisra'el in his office in Jerusalem. Our political correspondent interviewed him as soon as the decisions were announced.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Good evening, Mr Peres. What is your reaction?

[Peres] The president will instruct Shamir to form a government, and we will see.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you disappointed?

[Peres] We did what we could, and these are the results. I never promised anything else, not even for a moment; neither did I try to create the impression that we had an agreement in our pocket.

[Ben-'Ami] Is there still a possibility of forming an Alignment-Likud broad-based government?

[Peres] I do not think there are many chances of that.

[Ben-'Ami] And what about the alleged contacts between Alignment and Likud people?

[Peres] The word contacts is a very general and noncommittal word which does not mean anything. Mr Shamir has said he opposes a national unity government, and this view of his should be taken seriously.

['Oz Frankel, IDF Radio political correspondent] Will you pursue your contacts with the religious parties in the near future to examine the possibilities of forming a narrow-based government led by you?

[Peres] We will not stop talking to anybody. Nevertheless, one must read the picture correctly, and I am reading it properly.

[Ben-'Ami] Based on what you heard from the religious parties, are you disappointed about their decision?

[Peres] Yes, I am disappointed to a certain extent. Relations between the Knesset members and the Council of Torah Sages are not simple, and I do not know what happened behind closed doors. During the day today, however, we had grounds to believe that other possibilities existed.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, thank you very much. [end recording]

Here is another report which arrived in our studio in the course of the newscast: Knesset Member Menahem Porush of Agudat Yisra'el says that his party was promised that the Law of Return would be amended within 6 weeks.

Foreign Ministry on FRG Official's Speech

TA1011185888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Here is the reaction of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to the speech made by Philip Jenninger, president of the West German Bundestag, which contained implicit praise of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler: We read with astonishment the speech of the president of the Bundestag. We know Dr Jenninger very well; he has visited Israel on many occasions at the head of friendly delegations. The fashion in which the Nazi period was reviewed and the description of its historical background in his speech is unacceptable to any Jew. This was an unfortunate speech, whatever its original intentions may have been, the Foreign Ministry's communique says.

'Arafat Offers Talks Based on Iran-Iraq Model

TA1411091888 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat offered to launch negotiations with Israel along the lines of the cease-fire process between Iran and Iraq. Our correspondent has learned that this was the main message conveyed by Italian politician Giulio Andreotti during his visit to Israel 1 day [as published] after the elections.

According to this model, the UN Security Council and secretary general would take action to reconcile the differences between the positions held by the parties to the conflict, without any apparent need to convoke an international conference. Andreotti met with Shamir and Peres; it is not known what answers he received from them.

Cabinet Issues 'Low Profile' Reaction to PNC

TA1411090188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Nov 88 p 1

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] "The Government is opposed to all attempts to alter the status quo in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza," the cabinet communique declared yesterday.

Prime Minister Shamir, who made this statement, linked it to "developments at the Palestine National Council" and stressed that the territories would continue to be governed "according to international law and the Camp David agreements."

This reaction to the PNC meeting in Algiers did not merit a separate paragraph in the cabinet communique but was instead pinned onto a mention of the routine reports by the defence minister, the police minister and senior IDF officers.

Shamir decided to issue his reaction and have it published in relatively low profile, after the inner cabinet assessed the implications of the PNC meeting at its regular session last Wednesday.

Ministries React to, RAKAH Greets PNC Session

TA1211195088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Israel is making political and public relations preparations for the possible declaration of an independent Palestinian state. This week the Foreign Ministry transmitted to Israeli representations around the world information material in which Israel claims that talk of declaring a Palestinian state is a figment of the imagination and is intended to create international pressure on Israel.

Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren adds that Israel is explaining throughout the world that the establishment of a Palestinian state on a small area would not provide a solution for the Palestinians, nor would that state be able to sustain itself. It would, therefore, turn into a center of international terror.

RAKAH's leadership has sent a congratulatory telegram to the PNC, expressing the hope that decisions made during its session will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The PNC delegates in the territories this time did not want to participate in the Algiers session, contrary to PLO claims that these delegates were not allowed to leave for Algiers. A senior Defense Ministry source told our correspondent Victor Nahmias that notables from the territories appealed to the military authorities in the past to be allowed to participate in the PNC deliberations.

This year, however, nobody asked for an exit permit. The Defense Ministry source added that if it transpires that a resident of the territories has indeed participated in the PNC session, measures will be adopted against him.

Arab Notables Warned Against 'Illegal Activities'

TA1011202988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Security elements this evening warned several figures in East Jerusalem against taking part in illegal activities related to the PNC session. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias has learned that those summoned to police headquarters to this end include Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the daily AL-FAJR; Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, chairman of the Arab journalists association; and Dr Sari Nusaybah. They were also banned from leaving the country to attend the PNC session in Algiers. Only one journalist, Da'ud Kutab, who holds a U.S. passport, left Israel this evening on his way to Algiers.

IDF Moves To Prevent Unrest During PNC Session

TA1111072288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] As of this morning, the IDF is preventing Arab inhabitants from crossing from the territories into Jerusalem and vice versa. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in addition, the IDF has imposed an internal blockade in Judaea and Samaria to prevent Arab inhabitants from moving from one district to another.

These moves were taken to prevent disturbances linked to the PNC meeting, and as a deterrent following the call by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to demonstrate with prayers on Fridays.

Our correspondent adds that the IDF operated in many Judaea and Samaria villages last night, making many arrests.

Curfew Imposed in Gaza Strip

TA1111123288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] As of tonight and until further notice, a curfew will be imposed on the Gaza Strip, our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports. Gaza Strip inhabitants will not be permitted to enter Israeli territory, and media representatives will be permitted to enter the Gaza Strip only with the IDF spokesman's authorization.

E. Jerusalem Schools To Close

TA1011133688 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem—The Israeli authorities have decided to close private and public schools in Jerusalem for 1 week from Saturday, 12 November, until the evening of Saturday, 19 November, as a precautionary measure on the occasion of the PNC's convocation. The closure decision was communicated verbally to some of the principals of these schools.

Further on Incidents, Unrest in Territories

6 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA1011172388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Six Arabs were wounded today in clashes with soldiers in the Gaza Strip: four in Khan Yunus and two in Dayr al-Balah. Sources in Gaza told our correspondent Arye Gus that the number of casualties is higher.

This afternoon the security forces started demolishing the houses of members of recently-uncovered terrorist gangs. Curfews remain in effect in several refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

'Tense Quiet' in Territories

TA1111191188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Tense quiet prevailed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza today. Reinforced Army, Border Police, and police units maintained order. Arab sources said that numerous telephone lines in the territories were disconnected, and the distribution of the East Jerusalem Arabic-language papers was held up at IDF roadblocks. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that activists of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, today disseminated leaflets in many mosques during the Friday prayers. The leaflets warned the PLO against the declaration of an independent state.

Scuffles broke out in several mosques between the majority of the worshippers and Hamas activists. From this evening the exit of the Arab residents of Gaza into Israel's territory has been banned, and a curfew will be imposed on the Gaza Strip from 2100 and until further notice. The Police have reinforced their units in East Jerusalem and the Arab sector in Israel, adding 4,000 policemen to their regularly deployed force. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem police are investigating the circumstances of the wounding of two Arab boys, 12 and 15 years old, by shots in the Al-Tur area in East Jerusalem today. One of the boys was severely wounded and the other slightly. Arab sources claimed the people who opened fire were wearing uniforms. In answer to a question by our police affairs correspondent, Rafi Levi, the spokesman of the police's southern district, said that policemen were not involved in this incident. The police are looking into the possibility that the shooters were civilians who had been attacked with stones. Nobody has been detained yet.

Patrols Increased in Gaza Strip

TA1211201288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Today the IDF greatly increased patrols in the Gaza Strip, as it did in Judaea and Samaria, and imposed a curfew on the entire Gaza Strip. One person was wounded in the few incidents which took place there today. This is reported by a military source. Arab sources reported that three people were wounded. [passage omitted]

Detentions in Qalqilyah, Tulkarm

TA1211131388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Curfews have been imposed on Qalqilyah and Tulkarm. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF forces have carried out searches in the two towns and detained many suspects. [passage omitted]

IDF Reports 6 Wounded

TA1311082988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Report by Asaf Ashkenazi, 'Ezra Yanuv, and Shlomi Stein]

[Excerpt] The PNC convention in Algiers has not caused any riots in Judaea and Samaria; however, a certain tension has prevailed and attempts to organize disturbances were discovered in several locations. Other than a few incidents, no outstanding events were reported.

The IDF deployment was increased significantly, and a large number of soldiers could be seen in the streets. Each report of stone throwing and gatherings of people was promptly dealt with by the reinforced units. IDF initiated activities in villages continue.

The general curfew in the Gaza Strip declared last Friday by the security forces on the eve of the PNC convention remains in force. The curfew encompasses a population of 650,000 in 4 cities, 8 refugee camps, and 12 rural councils.

The IDF spokesman has announced that since the beginning of the curfew, six Gaza Strip residents were wounded by plastic bullets in operations initiated by the IDF to suppress attempts to violate the curfew and stage riots. In an attempt to avoid casualties as far as possible, the disturbances were mostly dispersed without the use of firearms.

Two youths were wounded on Friday night in the Al-Nusayrat and Jabalyah refugee camps. They were taken to a Gaza hospital. A 15-year-old youth from Khan Yunus and a 34-year-old resident of Gaza's Sabra neighborhood sustained injuries on Saturday. They, too, were hospitalized with slight injuries from plastic bullets.

More injuries were reported this morning: A Jabalyah refugee camp youth sustained a leg injury and a Khan Yunus woman was wounded by gunfire in the abdomen. Reinforced army units continue to maintain order in the Gaza Strip this morning.

In East Jerusalem, quiet was maintained throughout the weekend. At noon yesterday, police forces used rubber bullets and tear gas against stone throwers near the village of Silwan. [passage omitted]

1 Wounded in Escape Attempt

TA1311112988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] A Tulkarm resident was shot and wounded in the leg while trying to escape from detention. The man attacked the IDF guard and tried to escape, after which the guard fired and injured the man in the leg.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfews in Qalqilyah and Tulkarm were lifted early this morning. The traffic restrictions imposed Friday were also lifted yesterday. The IDF forces, however, are continuing large-scale patrolling and detentions.

The full curfew remains in force in the Gaza Strip.

1 Arab Killed by IDF in Janin

TA1311122288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] One Arab was killed and another was slightly wounded by IDF gunfire in the Janin area. Our correspondent Arye Gus says that according to an initial report it appears that the two were shot in a clash with security forces during an army operation in Janin. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the shooting. [passage omitted]

1 Wounded by IDF in Rafah

TA1311214188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] A local inhabitant of Rafah was severely wounded in the head by IDF soldiers' gunfire. The incident took place when he tried to pick up a stone and throw it. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the wounded man was evacuated to a hospital within the boundaries of the Green Line.

The commander of the Southern Command has issued an order banning the use of firecrackers and the hoisting of flags and emblems. Our correspondent says this move is meant to prevent displays of joy and solidarity at the proclamation of Palestinian independence scheduled to be made by the PNC meeting in Algiers.

During the day the curfew was temporarily lifted in various locations in the Gaza Strip for 2 hours to allow the population to stock up on food.

'Surprise, Concern' Expressed Over UNIFIL Move

TA1311163688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Military sources in the north expressed surprise and concern over UNIFIL's treatment of the five terrorists who overran a Finnish position in southern Lebanon. The sources told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that UNIFIL officers permitted the terrorists to humiliate the UN soldiers for many hours. The UNIFIL commanders did not heed IDF advice to break into the position and overpower the terrorists, preferring to hold negotiations with them for 18 hours.

The Israeli sources stressed that in the end the terrorists left without suffering any harm after murdering a Lebanese hostage. An investigation showed that the terrorists had acted under the influence of hard drugs, thus managing to stay awake for so many hours.

According to one theory, they were on their way to carry out an attack in Israel when they overran the UN position.

IDF Captures 3 DFLP 'Terrorists' in Lebanon

TA1311152688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] An IDF unit captured three terrorists today in the central sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. Our troops did not sustain any casualties.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an IDF unit on a routine mission in the security zone spotted a terrorist squad near the village of Falusa this morning. The soldiers opened fire, wounding the terrorists. The three terrorists, members of Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP, were captured after a short pursuit.

They were found in the possession of Kalashnikov rifles, ammunition, LAW missiles, antitank rocket launchers, hand grenades, and barbed wire, as well as pamphlets proving that they were planning to carry out a terrorist attack in one of the settlements in the north.

Gen Mordekhay Reports Capture of 'Terrorist Squad'

TA1011125588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The security forces in the Gaza Strip have uncovered a terrorist squad whose members threw grenades and carried out other kinds of attacks approximately 1 month ago. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, told our correspondent Arye Gus about the capture of the squad:

[Begin Mordekhay recording] We have uncovered the squad whose members threw the grenades in the Gaza Strip. On two occasions the terrorists threw grenades on Al-Nasir Street: on 12 October we suffered two minor casualties, and in the second instance they missed. We are holding the members of this Islamic Jihad squad, as well as most of the people who cooperated with it.

We seized the following weapons: five hand grenades, a revolver, a non-IDF M-16 rifle, demolition blocks, plastic explosive charges, as well as other weapons. In capturing this squad, we have neutralized its ability to carry out terrorist attacks in and outside the Gaza Strip.

Today we will also demolish nine houses belonging to members of squads which threw Molotov cocktails and hand grenades in the region. These houses are in the northern part of the Gaza Strip and belong to two members of a terrorist squad who threw hand grenades, to those who murdered Mrs Weiss [as heard], and to members of a squad who threw Molotov cocktails at one of our forces. This force managed to wound and capture one of the assailants, and we later managed to capture the whole squad.

This activity will unequivocally demonstrate that we are determined to pursue our policy of hurting anyone who carries out a terrorist attack with grenades, Molotov cocktails, and so on, and of damaging that person's possessions—in this case, his house. [end recording]

16 'Terrorist' Squads Uncovered in W. Bank

TA1411062888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The security forces have uncovered 16 terrorist squads in Judaea and Samaria to which dozens of recent terrorist acts are attributed. Among other things, they are charged with throwing Molotov cocktails at civilian and military vehicles, stabbing a Jewish youth in East Jerusalem 6 months ago, and attacking people suspected of collaborating with Israel. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that during the night, the security forces demolished and sealed off the homes of members of these squads.

In Tulkarm the security forces uncovered a three-member squad suspected of throwing a Molotov cocktail at an IDF patrol 1 and ½ months ago. A soldier was wounded in that terrorist attack. In Hebron the security forces detained a youth suspected of stabbing yeshiva student Hanokh Albeck in May in the Old City of Jerusalem. Our correspondent reports that this youth was previously sentenced to a 10-year prison term and his home was sealed off.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 14 November adds the following details on the terrorist squads: "Dozens of suspects were captured in the villages of Jaba' and Jalbun in Samaria. The members of these squads are suspected of attacking laborers who wanted to leave for work in Israel and of setting fire to woods on Mount Gilboa'. Another major 17-member squad was uncovered in Nabulus. Its members belong to Hamas, the radical Islamic Resistance Movement. They planted a bomb near Elon More; fortunately, the bomb did not explode and was detonated by the security forces. Other squads were uncovered in Yattah, Hebron, the districts of Judaea, Binyamin, and Samaria, and other places.

The common denominator: All squads engaged in disturbances, as well as subversive and terrorist activity. The timing of the release of the report is not incidental: On the eve of the declaration of Palestinian independence—the climax of the PNC session which is expected tomorrow—the security forces and the Army are publicizing their successes as a warning that the long arm of the Israeli Administration will reach every squad member."]

The Jerusalem police have recently uncovered three large terrorist squads. One squad, made up of Fatah members, is suspected of planting a bomb near Minister Ari'el Sharon's house in the Old City about a month ago. The bomb exploded, but no damage was caused. This squad also planned to plant a bomb at the Kishla police station in the Old City.

Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that another squad, made up of members of Nayif Hawatimah's organization, was uncovered at Abu Tor. Its members are suspected of throwing Molotov cocktails and staging disturbances. Another squad, whose members are residents of the Old City, Abu Tor, and 'Anabta, is affiliated with the Islamic Jihad organization. Its members planned and carried out numerous terrorist acts in the Jerusalem area.

9 Arrested for Attacking Arab 'Collaborators'

TA1211174288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The police captured a squad of Israeli Arabs which operated in the service of the Fatah organization and whose members attacked Arabs suspected of having collaborated with the authorities. Among those murdered was Ahmad Za'rura, a resident of the 'Anin village in Samaria, who was shot while sitting in a coffee house in Umm al-Fahm about 6 weeks ago. The nine detained members of the squad include 'Amar Mahmud Mas'ud, whose mother was sentenced at one time for having placed a bomb in the 'Afula market.

His father too was convicted for hostile activity, and after spending several years in jail, both parents were expelled to Egypt. The suspects are accused of throwing Molotov cocktails at the houses of residents of the village of Sulam near 'Afula, burning a tractor, and trafficking in weapons and drugs. The detentions were carried out last month, but the ban on publicizing them has only now been lifted.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem police have discovered the circumstances of the wounding of two boys of the Arab village of Al-Tur at the top of the Mount of Olives. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren notes that after getting a report on their hospitalization from an East Jerusalem hospital, the capital police found that a roadblock had been erected in the village and stones had been thrown. It was also found that an Israeli citizen who ran into the roadblock and whose car damaged fired his weapon but failed to report the shooting.

A check of the police computer indicated that the man, a Gedera resident, has a licensed pistol. The man was interrogated at his place of residence and released on bail, and the weapon was taken for a ballistic examination.

Arab Leaders Call for 'Peaceful' Strike 15 Nov

TA1311142488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpts] Shefar'am—Thousands of leaflets calling on Israeli Arabs to conduct a peaceful general strike on Tuesday were distributed throughout the Galilee and the Triangle over the weekend.

The handouts were issued on behalf of the Israeli Arab "monitoring committee" which has declared the strike to protest against the demolition of homes in the Arab sector. [passage omitted] "We are calling on all residents to keep the peace on the day of the strike and ensure that it passes peacefully," said Husayn Ibrahim Nimr, chairman of the national committee of Arab local councils.

Nimr rejected as nonsense reports that the general strike by Israeli Arabs entitled "Al Askan" (Housing Day) had been deliberately timed to coincide with the end of the PNC meeting when the council is expected to declare the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Muhammad Abu Lijah, head of the association of unrecognised Arab settlements in Israel, stressed that the decision to stage a general strike of the Israeli Arab sector was based on a "humanitarian" issue and had no political connotations.

'Sources' Fear Arab Sector-PLO Coordination
TA1011211088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Meeting in Al-Taiyiba this evening, the leaders of the Arab sector in Israel passed a unanimous decision calling for a general strike of the Israeli Arab sector next Tuesday and for sending a delegation to the United Nations to explain the condition of Israel's Arabs.

Minister Moshe Arens told our correspondent this evening: This is an open call to violate the law which borders on the criminal. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports:

There is one meaning to the decision reached in Al-Taiyiba: It is an attempt to include Israel's Arabs in the demonstrations of solidarity with the resolution the PNC is expected to pass on 15 November proclaiming an independent state. There is no doubt whatsoever that the authors of this decision are clinging to the affair of the demolition of 15 houses in Al-Taiyiba just to maneuver the strike close to the day on which an attempt may be made in the territories not just to hold a general strike but also to stage violent activities.

This evening, authoritative Israeli elements reacted with surprise, and particularly with anger, to the decision which was reached not just with the encouragement of the leaders of RAKAH and the Progressive List for Peace but also with the approval of the new Arab Knesset members of the Labor Party and MAPAM and many other Arab activists who had so far favored adherence to a clear-cut line separating manifestations of solidarity with the uprising in the territories and participation in it.

The meeting held in Al-Taiyiba by the follow-up committee of the Committee of Arab Local Councils once again demonstrated that this body has actually become the quasi-autonomous representing institution of the Arab citizens of this country. In addition to the decision on the strike, it was also decided to send a delegation to the United Nations, a move they had avoided taking in the last few years. Israeli sources fear that some of the participants may have coordinated these resolutions with PLO elements abroad.

As for the houses demolished in Al-Taiyiba, knowledgeable sources pointed out that the participants in the meeting chose to ignore two rulings issued by the High Court of Justice against the owners of the illegal houses which, incidentally, lay outside the boundaries of the village's master plan for the year 2010.

Fears were voiced this evening that the strike by the Arab sector may be used as the backdrop for disturbances and riots similar to the ones taking place on Peace Day last December 21st, and discussions on how to react to these resolutions will begin tomorrow.

To sum up, the PLO's attempt to stage demonstrations of solidarity with the proclamation of independence to be issued in Algiers may now spill into the Green Line.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 10 November adds: "Tariq 'Abd al-Hay, deputy chairman of the Committee of Arab Councils and mayor of Tira, told our correspondent Yafa Glick that the strike was set for next Tuesday because 11 houses are scheduled to be demolished that day in Umm al-Fahm. According to him, the timing of the strike is in no way related to the PNC session."]

King Husayn Makes Speech at Central Bank Building
JN1211135688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1213 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Speech by King Husayn opening coin museum at Central Bank building in Amman on 12 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, and peace be upon his noble messenger, our master, the honest Arab Prophet Muhammad.

I greet you dear brothers, honorable citizens. I am delighted to meet with you at this respectable, national establishment and speak to you from this key financial edifice, having just inaugurated a special musueum housing a collection of rare coins minted in Jordan from the dawn of history to this day, testifying that this pure land of the vast Arab world has throughout the ages been a wellspring of civilization, development, and propsperity. Each of the coins we have seen in itself marks an illustrious chapter in the history of this dear homeland and as a whole a cultivated chronicle of civilization and yet another source for reading history—the history of Jordan's development and the contributions of its people in all spheres.

Brother citizens; ladies and gentlemen: Inspired by the occasion that conjures up images of the past in all its brilliance, dreams, and achievements and by the place that brings us back to the present with its responsibilities and hopes, I am attracted to the memories of the past 3 decades to review our long, auspicious march, which we have traveled in firm, confident steps,infused with faith in God and driven by hope in a bright future and the message of the Great Arab Revolt that sprang from the conscience of the nation, a revolution against backwardness and tyranny awakening us from a long slumber and carrying us to the horizons of light and affluence in a blessed, sustained renaissance that still ignites our ambitions, calls forth our energies, and reinforces our confidence in ourselves and in the future of our children.

Perhaps what we need most at this juncture is to do ourselves justice: The progess and development we have achieved to date was only a dream yesterday. Our achievements in the areas of services and construction are the fruit of our efforts and sweat. We watered our established security and stability with tears and blood. If a moral is to be learned from the facts that we are experiencing today or in our past, whose manifestations we saw a short while ago, it is that Jordan has never been and never will be a duty-free shop at an airport, an arena for adventure and illegal profits, or a playground for fooling around and irresponsible behavior. Had we been so, we would not have reached our present level of achievement, which is a source of pride and a justification for our concern and resolve to safeguard and consolidate our gains to carry on the march of good and largesse for the good of the country and citizens alike. I tell you this in your capacity as the basis and activator of the national economy. You comprise officials and businessmen, industrialists and workers, bankers and merchants. Every sector to which you belong has contributed to the building and glory of this homeland. Every one of you is a citizen before being an official, merchant, worker, or investor. All of you care for this homeland and its interests as much as you care for yourselves and the future of your children. Within this framework, you will be the object of our confidence and pride because you are the sure treasure of this cherished homeland.

Brethren, today I address you at a time when Jordan is facing financial challenges. You certainly realize that this is not the first time it has faced such a difficulty. The firmly entrenched fact is that Jordan is used to overcoming difficulties and ordeals, something which has strengthened its sinews and enhanced its ability to adapt and take the initiative, so much so that this ability has become one of its traits. No matter how powerful storms may be, they all bounce off its impregnable walls which are built by the arms of its sons who believe in their God and nation and who are planted in their own soil, a fruitful tree with firm roots and high branches.

Perhaps this difficult period, which has engaged the minds of many in the recent past, reminds us of the difficult formula which Jordan had to live; namely, the relationship between the land and the people—the land with its limited resources, and the people with their high fertility rate—and all the subsequent requirements that exhaust the people and the state. We are not the first state in the world to face this situation. Many states face the same problem; some of these are industrialized states that are much more advanced than we are, and some are greately lagging behind us. Such states cannot have easy paths throughout. And because we are fully aware of this fact, it was natural for us to borrow successful patterns from states that are governed by the same formula.

If we view the experiment of the successful states, we observe that they adopted a policy based on preparing their people and training them as best they could to exploit the resources of their country by investing their money, savings, experience, and initiative in the best manner possible. In other words, the enlightened, trained, resourceful, and productive person is himself a capital by which these states compensate for their limited resources. In Jordan, we adopted this policy as a guide for us, a policy on whose basis we will continue our march of progress and advancement, God willing.

In this country, we believe in the dear free responsible citizen—a guarantor of himself and his family, money, and properties, because he is the most precious property we have. He is also the goal and purpose, and by him and for him, all the good achievemnets were made—achievements which grant him honorable means of living and provide him with progress and ways to achieve his ambitions toward a better life without any segregation or discrimination. In light of the economic and social

indicators, we managed, God be praised, to reach high levels of development, which, if compared with our available revenues, will appear closer to a miracle.

We have expanded the two areas of education—the vocational and the academic areas—and the school and university stages. We also placed a special emphasis on training, we provided the citizen with advanced health services, we enabled him to secure proper housing, and we developed cities, villages, and the desert by building health centers, hospitals, roads, and schools; by supplying electricity and water to all the population centers; and by expanding the communications networks, irrigation projects, sewage systems, and other services. We also encouraged invividual initiatives within the framework of free economy and we exerted our utmost efforts to invest our natural resources all over the Kingdom in order to provide labor opportunities for as many citizens as possible and to distribute the gains of development to the various areas.

It may be useful to mention here that our credibility both in the Arab and international arenas has been one of the assets that helped us achieve what we have achieved. This credibility was founded on our moderate rational policy based on honesty and constructive cooperation with other countries. This has earned us confidence and respect in the Arab and foreign circles, and our credibility has become an indespensable national capital. Hence, we are eager to preserve and develop it through contact with the heads of state and governments and interreacting with the regional and international issues or through meeting our obligations toward international institutions and funds.

The development march is a continuous enlightened move, which adapts itself to the current developments and corrects its trends and means whenever necessary in order to keep pace withn the contemporary cultural changes. Our Jordanian society has become a society capable of adaptation and correction as a result of its economic and social system, which enables it to contain its problems in light of its development circumstances and geographical location that place special burdens on it.

As you all know well, we are facing our society's structural issues with realism and insight—the issues which have lived with us for a long time and which have increased. It is time now to reconsider all the roots that govern them as well as some social and economic concepts that are out of harmony with the current situation or the development phase in the foreseeable future. This has created an overall structural change. Unemployment in our society, for example, should not be seen only from its economic angle and its dependence on development rates.

All the factors affecting it should also be considered, because it has resulted from our structural nature, which is primarily related to the gap between supply and demand for labor forces. It is also related to the erroneous social concept of professions and trades. On this basis, the government has begun to deal with the issue through developing the educational system, correcting the educational process, and preparing and rehabilitating the graduates of the educational institutions to meet our development needs. It has also begun to change the concept of employment on the national and social levels and concentrated on activating the economy in order to create enough job opportunities.

The government hastened to tackle the inflationary consumption issue that has imbalanced the national economic structures through the economic, monetary, and financial measures and policies in order to promote self-reliance, strengthen the local production structure, reduce the gap between imports and exports, change the methods and conduct of consumption, reduce government spending, and rely on the private sector to mobilize and invest resources.

Regarding the administrative issue, the government is working to tackle this issue by linking the national institutions in a harmonious way with its activities to achieve centralization in planning and decentralization in implementation in all development and administrative regions in the Kingdom and properly to select qualified administrative personnel in positions suitable to their qualifications. This is in addition to modernizing administrative and financial legislation and exerting planned efforts in the fields of regional and sectorial training and planning.

What is required from us is that we all—in our different positions—become an integral part of the corrective operations. We should interact with and accept them because they are an inevitability imposed by realism, the nature of the present stage, and future requirements.

What is presented before us, O brothers, is a national issue requiring a long-term collective effort, not a short-term governmental policy. The fact is that today we are at the threshold of a new national course aimed at correcting many courses in our society and economy. This course depends on conduct that can understand the realities of life and its new dimensions. If we become aware of the seriousness of continuing to deplete and consume our resources faster than we as a nation produce, we will then be following the right path. This is only the first brick. Realization alone is not sufficient. This realization should be interpreted into a planned action, disciplined move, and cohesive policy. Consequently, all honest national dialogues should converge on public interests and stay away from narrow views based on defending personal interests.

As our achievements were the result of the convergence of everybody's efforts, overcoming the present financial difficulty and rendering the new national course a success will be attained through everybody's cooperation and participation, in an atmposhere of fraternity and constructive dialogue, in shouldering the burdens and not casting doubts and defamation.

Civic responsibility calls for resorting to reason and logic in assessing this or that measure, reviewing its background and realities, and analyzing it apart from personl sensitivities or calculations. The process of rectification and adaptation must continue even after the disappearnace of the transient cloud that makes me repeat what God almighty said in his book: But it is possible that ye dislike a thing, which is good for you. [Koranic verse]

God has granted Jordan an enlightened and committed citizen, who is aware of his homeland's aspirations and ambitions. This citizen has made me, throughout the long years of my shouldering the trust of responsibility, proud of him throughout the world. This citizen has always furnished me with all factors of optimism because he is qualified to assume his responsibilities toward his country, people, and kinfolk. With faith in God and through the citizen's alertness and efforts, the national will is formed to render successful the efforts of building the intrinsic strength that can consolidate the bases and national economoy of Jordanian society and reformulate and rectify the present with courage and realism so that it will move toward a better future, with God's will and help.

Dear brothers, ladies and gentlemen: I thank you and ask God to grant us success in building this homeland and serving this nation. On this occasion, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for the praiseworthy efforts exerted by the Central Bank of Jordan and for the high efficiency of its employees and their dedication to the work for which they have become known, particularly in the recent period during which they stood up to confront the transient monetary crisis with unique national responsibility and high national alertness.

May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

King Husayn Returns From Gulf Tour 11 Nov

JN1111143288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman this afternoon after a Gulf tour that took him to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman. [passage omitted]

AL-BAYAN on Tour

JN1011193688 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 9 Nov 88 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that Jordanian King Husayn's Gulf tour, which will discuss the Arab situations, particularly Lebanon, will also touch on the subject of aid installments allocated to Jordan according to the resolutions of the Baghdad [1978] Arab summit. It will also attempt to make Kuwait deposit financial amounts with the Central Bank of Jordan, which suffers from lack of foreign currencies. Informed sources have said that Jordan will ask Syria to mediate with Libya so that it will pay the aid installments allocated to Jordan. Some sources expect the Jordanian king to visit Libya for that purpose.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Government yesterday raised custom tariffs on 23 different commodities at a rate between 5 and 57 percent. As from yesterday, the price of imported medicines increased between 43 and 57 percent. The Jordanian dinar continued to drop and reached a level of 560 fils to the dollar. The merchant Petra Bank intervened by selling $6 million to curtail the drop in Jordanian currency, and the Central Bank of Jordan warned of the presence of counterfeit $100 bills. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Says Syrian Intelligence Holds Hostages

NC1111130488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] A Hizballah official has been quoted as saying that Syrian intelligence is holding the foreign hostages in Lebanon and that Hizballah has nothing to do with the fate of these hostages any longer.

Reportage on Capture of Finnish UNIFIL Post

5 Gunmen Storm UN Post

NC1311065988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has announced that five gunmen stormed a UN observation post near Al-Tayyibah in the south last night. The gunmen asked five Finnish soldies to accompany them. When the soldiers refused, the gunmen took away their weapons and detained them inside their post. Goksel said that UNIFIL personnel have the post surrounded.

Meanwhile, Israeli television reported that negotiations have been held between the armed group and the UNIFIL Command. The gunmen demanded to take two Finnish soldiers as hostages, but the UNIFIL command rejected their demand. Goksel said that the negotiations are continuing.

22 Finnish Soldiers Imprisoned

LD1311094088 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 0600 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] A guard station of Finnish UN soldiers was occupied by armed intruders yesterday in southern Lebanon. Five men armed with machine guns and grenade launchers attacked a guard station north of the village of Al-Tayyibah near the Israeli border.

The men took five Finnish UN soldiers and two local inhabitants prisoner. Nobody was hurt in the intervention. The intervention was noticed yesterday afternoon, when the guard station of the Finnish UNIFIL battalion could not be contacted. The battalion sent 17 men to strengthen the station. The occupiers forced these 17 Finns to the guard station. At the moment there are 22 Finns at the guard station.

The Finnish UN battalion is following the situation on the location and there is a constant negotiation link, according to the UN Office of the Ministry of Defense. There is no clear information about the demands of the occupiers nor is there any certainty about the organization behind the occupiers. The minister of defense, Ole Norrback, has been kept up to date about the situation. According to the UN Office of the Ministry of Defense the situation is so far calm.

Al Tayyibah is situated in the area of the Finnish UNIFIL troops, but Israel claims that the area is under its authority. The names of the imprisoned Finns have so far not been released. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reported With Captors

LD1311101988 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 0700 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] The news agency AP says in a telegram that has just arrived that UNIFIL has reached an agreement with the captors about solving the situation, [of captured Finnish soldiers].

An Israeli army officer, who has not given his name, has said that the guerillas have agreed to leave the station escorted by the UNIFIL troops if the Israeli army does not interfere. However, this information has not been confirmed.

Negotiations Continue

NC1311122288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Following negotiations which lasted from this morning until this afternoon, three Finnish soldiers were released from among a group of five who had been detained by gunmen in a UNIFIL post near Al-Tayyibah in southern Lebanon since last night. UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has stated that the gunmen, one woman and four men, lost their way while preparing to attack an Israeli position either in southern Lebanon or northern Israel.

They subsequently detained the Finnish soldiers in an attempt to negotiate with the UNIFIL Command in order to be able to leave the border zone. Earlier today, the woman who had taken part in the operation surrendered to the UNIFIL Command. She has been interrogated concerning the incident.

4 Finns Freed

LD1311111088 Helsinki Domestic Service in Swedish 1030 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] One armed man is still holding 18 Finnish UN soldiers as hostages in Lebanon. Four soldiers were released this morning. There were originally five captors, but this morning four have given themselves up.

Negotiations to free the Finns are continuing, but the demands of the captors have not yet been released. Because, among other things, he has hand grenades, the UN has refrained from retaking the post by force. The negotiations are more difficult because they must be carried out with the help of an interpreter. The identity of the captor is unknown. [passage omitted]

Last Captor Taken; Seizure Ends

LD1311144988 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1300 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] The intervention and the capturing of Finnish UN soldiers that began in southern Lebanon last night has ended. The captor, who at the last stage was holding 18 Finnish soldiers prisoner, was taken by surprise. During the operation a local water pumping station worker was killed by a stray bullet from the capator.

Our reporter Ossi Kervinen has followed the developments, in the situation from the UN Office of the Ministry of Defense. [Kervinen] About half an hour ago the Ministry of Defense stated that the situation in Lebanon had ended. The entire statement is as follows:

The occupiers who forced their way into the Finnish UNIFIL guard post have given up their attempt and the incident has ended. One of the two local workers at the guard post was killed in connection with the ending of the situation. None of the Finnish UN soldiers have been hurt.

The situation started to unravel when one of the captors, a woman, gave up after negotiations. With her four Finns were released. After that three of the captors gave themselves up, leaving the leader of the captors and 18 Finnish UN soldiers and two local workers as his prisoners. An attempt to release them was made when the alertness of the remaining captor lapsed. He was then taken by surprise. However, during the raid he fired his gun, hitting the local worker and killing him.

According to the Ministry of Defense statement the released Finns have said that they were not treated badly. The occupiers said that they had nothing against the Finnish UN soldiers, thus they wanted to secure the fact that they could get away from the area.

After giving this statement, the Ministry of Defense described the background to the event: Yesterday afternoon, 12 November, five armed persons forced themselves into the UNIFIL guard post and took the Finnish personnel of the post as prisoners. At the time of the event there were five Finnish UN soldiers and two local workers at the post.

The guard post is situated north of the village of Al Tayyibah in the Israeli security zone by the River Litani. To reinforce the post the battalion sent 17 men. This operation was carried out because communication links to the post had been cut.

In addition to hand guns, the occupiers had hand grenades, recoilless rifles, and explosives. After the reinforcements arrived at the scene the occupiers threatened their hostages, forcing the reinforcements into the station, which meant that they could not carry out the task they had been given.

The demands of the occupiers and the aims of the occuaption are not fully clear, nor is there full certainty of the organization to which the occupiers belong. There were five occupiers, four men and one woman, the Ministry of Defense statement says.

A press conference at the Ministry of Defense is about to begin and this matter will be discussed in more detail.

Al-Khatib Says Syrians Want To Leave West Beirut

NC1011185988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib said today that Syria wants to withdraw its troops from West Beirut and hand it over to Lebanese soldiers. In an interview with AFP, he said: The Syrians themselves have asked me to work quickly in reorganizing the Lebanese Army brigades. They do not want to play the role of traffic policemen in Beirut. He added: The Syrian Army wants to withdraw and leave it to the Lebanese Army, while supporting it from a distance.

Al-Khatib considered the Syrian presence in Lebanon a political issue that does not concern the military establishment. He added: My current command headquarters is a temporary one, and I will remain there until I can move the main headquarters to the Al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry] when the situation is back to normal.

He stressed that it is absolutely not his intention to work for the partition of the Army, whether legally or de facto. He added: If some brigades refuse my orders, I will understand their positions, be patient, and find an excuse for them temporarily until the situation in the country is back to normal. He added that returning the situation to normal is a political responsibility of the government.

Al-Khatib admitted to AFP that his authority will cover only 6 out of the Lebanese Army's 10 brigades for the moment. He also touched on the existing imbalance between the Army brigades deployed in areas where the Syrian Army and its allies are present and those in the eastern areas, which are in possession of three fourth of the heavy-caliber weapons. He added: I have given myself 2 months for evaluation before I submit my report to the government on the Army's status and needs.

'Awn To Take Legal Action Against Al-Khatib

NC1111133888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The cabinet decided during its meeting today to authorize defense minister [as heard] General Michel 'Awn to take legal measures to refer Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib to the appropriate judicial authorities in accordance with the laws in force.

The cabinet took the view that the appointment of Al-Khatib as acting Army commander, which has been supported by some politicians, is a grave national blunder, entailing repercussions that are prejudicial to the unity of the homeland and the state and serve the interests of those who are working to complete the partition plan. [passage omitted]

In a dialogue with journalists, Prime Minister 'Awn was asked: Richard Murphy is talking about two goverments and McCarthy [U.S. ambassador in Lebanon] is holding consultatiaons with both sides. What is your view on this? Gen 'Awn replied by describing Richard Murphy as someone who has failed and does not want to admit his failure. He said that when an American fails, he holds other responsible, like anyone else.

Gen 'Awn added that Murphy still insists that there are two governments in Lebanon. He expressed surprise that such a high-ranking official in the U.S. State Department should not have a proper understanding of the Constitution.

Explosion Damages Soviet Press Agency Equipment
NC1211113588 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet news agency [as heard] has reported that a bomb went off in the yard of the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY'S Building in Beirut last night. The blast casued damage to the building, but no human losses were sustained. The Soviet agency pointed out that the explosion of the 4-kg bomb has also damaged the equipment of NOVOSTI'S Middle East Regional Bureau in West Beirut.

'Tension Prevails' Following Clashes With Lahd
NC1111092788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Tension prevails on the Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir-Kafr Falus frontlines following clashes that took place this morning between positions of the Popular Liberation Army—Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces and positions of the Lahd militias. Machineguns and rockets were used in these clashes.

Correspondents in the occupied border strip have reported that Israel has established a land bridge on the border with Lebanon and has opened several crossing points for the passage of heavy armored vehicles, mobile operations rooms, bulldozers, and mine clearing vehicles.

A number of these vehicles have taken up positions in Ibil al-Saqy Valley. The occupation forces have also strengthened the militias' positions on the frontlines, declared a state of alert, and taken stringent security measures and precautions.

Amal Forces, South Lebanese Army Clash
NC1111122188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The towns of Bra'shit, Kafr Rumman, and Kafr Milki came under rocket attack this morning. The shelling by the occupation forces and their agents lasted 5 hours and caused heavy damage to houses and farms. A reistance fighter was injured in these attacks and was evacuated to the liberated areas for treatment.

The national resistance fighters carried out an attack on the agents' position in Bra'shit and inflicted losses in the agents' ranks.

The Lebanese resistance groups-Amal has issued the following statement: At midnight last night, a group from the Lebanese resistance groups-Amal, Al-Imam al-Mahdi Company, Martyred Leaders unit, attacked the enemy position at Tallat Bra'shit with machineguns, rockets, and 60 mm mortars. The mujahidins engaged the positions for 15 minutes.

A 12.7 mm machinegun emplacement was destroyed and some there were killed. The enemy immediately shelled Bra'shit with mortars, until 0500 today. One resistance figher was wounded and evacuated to the liberated areas.

Kafr Rummand and Kafr Milki came under concentrated 120 mm shelling from 0300 until 0700 today. Eleven shells fell on them and the shelling caused damge to seven houses. The shelling originated from enenmy positions in (Al-Zaffati) and (Al-Suwayda').

Israel Reportedly Moves Reinforcements Into South
NC1111092788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports received from the South, the occupation authorities have brought fresh reinforcements into the occupied border strip.

National Resistance men have reportedly blown up the memorial of agent Sa'd Haddad [former South Lebanese Army commander] on Marj 'Uyun Boulevard.

It has been reported in Sidon that intermittent clashes involving the use of various types of weapons are taking place on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines between agent Lahd positions and the Popular Liberation Army positions.

National Resistance, Israeli Forces Clash
NC1311190288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] National Resistance fighters have attacked a patrol of the Israeli occupation forces on the Markaba-Tallusah Road. A 15-minute clash ensued in which the attackers used machineguns and rockets. Two of the

resistance men were injured in the battle. The Amal Movement has isued a statement saying the occupation forces shelled Tallusah immediately afterward and combed the outskirts of Markaba and (Wadi al-Suqi).

According to reports from the South, the Israeli occupation forces raided the two of Markaba, where they blew up three houses and gathered the town's inhabitants to the main square and interrogated them.

In another development, the DFLP announced that the group of the captured leader 'Umar Nasir managed to cross into the Palestinian occupied territories in the Galilee panhandle at dawn today. The group clashed with an Israeli border patrol on (Al-Wasilah) Road, which links Hunin and Margaliyyot. A fierce battle ensued in which machineguns, hand grenades, and law [light anti-tank weapon] were used. An enemy armored personnel carrier was destroyed. An enemy Land Rover was hit and its personnel were either killed or wounded.

The occupation forces sent many reinforcements into the region, forcing the group to head to Margaliyyot where they were ambushed by the Israelis. A 15-minute clash followed in which several casualties were inflicted on the Israeli enemy. The enemy forces managed to take the members of the group prisoners after they ran out of ammunition and were wounded.

The DFLP warned in its statement against harming the captives and called on the International Red Cross to intervene immediately to protect their lives and secure medical treatment for them.

The enemy radio admitted the operation, saying the occupation forces were able to capture the members of the group. The radio made no mention of the clashes which occurred or the losses of the enemy.

Israeli Planes Draw Fire Over Mountain Positions

NC1311123388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft broke the sound barrier four times while flying over Lebanon at 1400 today. The planes were confronted by antiaircraft fire from mountain positions.

Al-Asad on 'Strategic Parity' Basis for Peace

JN1211082988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Nov 88

['Text' of President Hafiz al-Asad's message to the chairman and members of the General Federation of the Workers Unions Executive Bureau "at the end of the national voluntary work days implemented by the workers on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the Corrective Movement"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Brother Chairman and Members of the General Federation of the Workers' Unions Executive Bureau: The homeland gives great thanks to its working sons; it gives strong thanks to their efforts; and life becomes active and prosperous thanks to work—the honor of mankind. The homeland and citizens will then be happy.

Work means production in various fields. As production and increase in production are required in normal circumstances to reach a better life, their importance will increase in extraordinary circumstances.

The concern of Syria's workers to follow up production competition and the initiatives of the national voluntary work days year after year is strongly linked to their love for the homeland and their realization of the requirements of the circumstances of the Arab homeland in general and in particular our state, which is confronting the hostile schemes aimed at imposing a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict to serve Israel's expansionist objectives to fragment the Arab homeland.

Syria, which has decided to make sacrifices and endure burdens to abort these schemes, will continue the march on the path of steadfastness. Syria is confident that it can achieve its aspirations of loftiness, dignity, progress, and development in all fields to reach a just peace based on regaining the occupied Arab territory and the usurped Arab rights, particularly the Arab Palestinian people's rights.

The outcome of the national voluntary work days implemented by the workers on the 18th anniversary of the Corrective Movement is geared to the course of our national work to promote the method of development, reinforce our steadfastness capability, and achieve victory. The victory represented by resolving our just causes in our interest can only be achieved through the efforts we exert, the productive work that we carry out, and the determination to achieve strategic parity with Israel. This parity is the basis of our struggle to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Syria's belief in its pan-Arab role is firm and unwavering. This role calls on us to double work and production in all fields to reinforce the building of the society of progress and socialism and to achieve our nation's objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism.

We are confident that our path is the right one. There is no room on our path for the defeatists, those who wager on illusions, or those who are in a hurry to reach capitulatory solutions. Our path is that of loftiness and dignity that gives immunity to the diseases of the capitulationists, bequeaths to our coming Arab generations a pride in our achievements, and guarantees a happy future for those generations.

On this day, we salute every working man and struggler in the occupied Arab territory—in the Golan, southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza. We salute every man, woman, old man, youth, and child. We salute their heroism and splendid steadfastness. We assert to them we are together on the path—together in the struggle, sacrifice, steadfastness, and confrontation—until we achieve the objectives of liberation regaining rights.

O brother workers: Blessed be your efforts and offering to the homeland. Continue these efforts and offering within the framework of our national struggle to enrich life and please the people as well as for the homeland's loftiness and pride.

My greetings to all of you and to your families. My love to you. And let us consolidate our march on the path of victory.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad

Al-Shar' Sees 'No Changes' in Bush Lebanon Policy

JN1311103188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that no changes will occur with respect to U.S. policy on Lebanon during George Bush's era. Al-Shar' said that Syria shares Washington's analysis of the Lebanese crisis.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, Al-Shar' said that through its dialogue with the Americans, Syria has sensed that they have become convinced of the impossibility of reaching a solution in Lebanon so long as the political system in it is not amended.

Reportage on Visit by Arab League's Klibi

Arrives; Makes Statement

JN0911185588 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', head of Foreign Ministry protocol, and a number of senior ministry officials.

Klibi made a statement to a SANA reporter. He said: I am very pleased to return to Damascus as part of my tour to discuss with leaders of Arab states the current situation in Lebanon. I was interested in additional

consultations in Syria, which carries the greatest burden in the Lebanese arena. I will be honored to meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader who made the protection of Lebanon's Arabism and the confrontation of the Israeli occupation of any part of the Arab homeland a fatal, pan-Arab battle.

I would like to stress that the Arab states are determined to shoulder their responsibility toward Lebanon and help the Lebanese people emerge from their crisis and rebuild their society on new, firm bases that are nationally accepted.

Meets With Al-Asad, Al-Shar'

JN1011143488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at 1315 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

At noon today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Chedli Klibi. The conversation revolved around the Arab situation and developments in the Lebanese arena.

Visits Vice President

JN1011200688 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1800 today Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting. Discussion dealt with the Arab situation and the situation in the Lebanese arena.

Departs 11 Nov

JN1111202788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 nov 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus this afternoon after a 3-day visit to the country during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a number of high-ranking officials in the ministry. He was also seen off by Israel Boycott Office Director Zuhayr 'Aqil.

Sudanese Communist Party Head, Delegation Arrive

JN0911181488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—This afternoon, a Sudanese Communist Party [SCP] delegation, headed by Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud, SCP secretary general, arrived in Damascus on a visit at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Pan-Arab Command. The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Comrade Ahmad al-As'ad, reserve member of the Pan-Arab Command, and a number of party comrades.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud expressed his pride in visiting Syria, which stands with all pride and glory against hostile conspiracies against our Arab nation. He added: While it stands steadfast defending the movement of Arab struggle, Syria will find at its side all honorable Arabs supporting its steadfastness and pan-Arab march.

Nuqud Meets With Al-Ahmar

JN1011121088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Nov 88]

[Text] In Damascus, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party this morning received Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud, secretary general of the Sudanese Communist Party. The talks dealt with relations between the Ba'th Party and the Sudanese Communist Party, and ways of bolstering them.

Received by Mashariqah

JN1311172888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president of the Republic and deputy chairman of the National Progressive Front [NPF], at noon today received Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud, Sudanese Communist Party [SCP] secretary general. Attending the meeting were 'Abd al-Ghani Qannut, Safwan Qudsi, and Daniel Ni'mah, members of the NPF Central Command.

Talks dealt with the political situation in Sudan and the latest political developments in the Arab arena as well as the achievements realized in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad in the political, economic, and social fields. Talks also dealt with the basic, important role played by the NPF in these fields.

The SCP secretary general lauded the Syrian NPF's role on all levels and considered the NPF a pioneering experience in the Arab homeland. He also hailed the achievements realized in the country as well as the principled, consistent pan-Arab policy adopted by Syria.

The SCP delegation led by Secretary General Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud visited the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah and became acquainted with the effects of the savage, deliberate destruction of the city prior to enemy withdrawal from it.

Comrade Nuqud wrote the following remarks in the vistors' book: Al-Qunaytirah will remain a symbol of the Syrian Arab people's valiant steadfastness. From this steadfastness, the first steps of the triumphant march will emanate in order to libereate Syrian Arab territory, regain the Palestinian Arab rights, and liberate the Arab will from the imperialist and Zionist alliances hostile to our nation.

Afghanistan

Military Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR

LD1211200488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] A military-economic cooperation protocol between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union was signed today. The protocol was signed on the Afghan side by Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin and on the Soviet side by Eduard (Kovelev), deputy of the Afghan-Soviet joint commission for cooperation and head of the office of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union.

Deputy Prime Minister Sarwaw Mangal and Faruq Karmand, deputy minister for foreign affairs, from the Afghan side; and Major General (Boratov), deputy chief of general staff; Brigadier General Yuriy Mikhaylov Nikolayev [as heard], the head of the Office of the Chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces; and Vladimir (Tetotov), minister plenipotentiary of the USSR Embassy, were present at the signing ceremonies.

Soviet Party Official Arrives, Meets Najibullah

LD1111172888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met this evening at Gol Khanah Palace—the headquarters of the Presidency—with Oleg Baklanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and his accompanying delegation. They discussed military and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan.

Oleg Baklanov arrived this afternoon in Kabul heading a Soviet delegation on a working visit to the Republic of Afghanistan.

The delegation was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by responsible party and state authorities. The delegation includes Soviet Ministers Systsov and Belousov, as well as a group of employees of the CPSU, ministries, and organizations of the Soviet Union.

The delegation will hold a series of talks with Afghan leaders on bilateral military and economic cooperation.

Meets With Sharq, Tanay

LD1211180888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Mr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this afternoon at the Council of Ministers headquarters with CPSU Central Committee Secretary Oleg Baklanov and his accompanying delegation who are on a working visit to our country.

During this meeting which was held in a friendly atmosphere, both sides talked about military and economic cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Similarly, this morning the Soviet Union high-ranking delegation led by Baklanov met with Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, defense minister, and with the leadership delegation of this ministry. They discussed bilateral military cooperation.

Holds Talks With Najibullah

LD1211204988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met last night with Oleg Baklanov, CPSU Central Committee secretary, and his accompanying delegation who are in Kabul on a working visit. They discussed military and economic cooperation.

During this meeting, Esteemed Najibullah thanked the Soviet leadership, and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev personally, for the continuous friendly attention to Afghanistan and for the firm support given to the Afghan government's efforts aimed at stopping bloodshed and reaching a national accord.

Their friendly conversation confirmed the identical positions of the two countries on key problems in the current situation, the situation in Afghanistan and around it. It was emphasized that the Geneva accords should be strictly observed by all their signatories.

The participants in the meeting discussed in detail problems connected with Soviet-Afghan cooperation, specifically, implementing the whole package of political, economic, social, and military measures drawn up jointly by Soviet and Afghan leaders.

They were unanimous in their opinion that the reliance of the irreconcilable opposition on military methods for solving Afghanistan's domestic problems will lead nowhere. The only reasonable conclusion that can be drawn from the country's current situation is that there is no alternative to national reconciliation. Proceeding from this assumption, Najibullah and Baklanov discussed specific proposals aimed at using to the maximum all of the all-round potential of the equitable Soviet-Afghan cooperation in all interests of a political settlement and the creation in Afghanistan of a broadly based coalition government.

Esteemed Najibullah tonight gave a dinner in honor of Oleg Baklanov and his delegation.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1311163888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, today held the last round of talks at the Presidency Headquarters with the high ranking Soviet delegation led by Oleg Baklanov, CPSU Central Committee secretary. Both sides place a high value on the results of the talks regarding the military-economic cooperation between both countries. The talks took place in a friendly and sincere atmosphere.

According to another report, the CPSU Central Committee secretary, who headed a delegation to the Republic of Afghanistan on a working visit, left for his country today. The responsible state and party leadership officials saw off the delegation at Kabul International Airport.

Prior to his departure, Oleg Bakanov said to the journalists at Kabul International Airport: I have been greatly influenced by this visit. I became familiar with the life of Afghanistan's people during this visit and believe once again in the peace-loving policy of the Afghan Government. I met with Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq during this working visit. I express once again my government's support for the implementation of the Geneva accords. I believe that if the other countries that signed the Geneva accords fulfill their commitments, then peace will be established in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Returns From New York UN Session

LD1211182288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq returned home this morning. He had been in New York to take part in the 43d UN General Assembly session.

The following greeted the ambassador and his delegation on their return: Deputy Prime Minister [title as heard] 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat; Wolasi Jirgah Chairman Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi; Supreme Court Chief Justice Nezamuddin Tahzib; Council of Ministers deputies; the attorney general; ministers; the head of the Afghan Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Society; heads of social organizations; the deputy minister for Islamic affairs and awqaf; Soviet Ambassador Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov; CSSR Ambassador Bohuslav Handl; and Carl England, head of the UN development program in Afghanistan.

Protest Lodged With Pakistan on Overflights

LD1111174188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has announced that the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul at 1200 yesterday was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where the following points were made to him by the deputy head of the First Political Directorate:

The country's security authorities reported that, despite strong protest by the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistani violations of the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan continue.

A Pakistani jet aircraft at 1055 on 6 November, travelling at a speed of 700 km per hour from the direction of (Koh-e Walishar), entered the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan and after 1 and ½ minutes of reconnaissance returned to Pakistan from the direction of Landai.

Similarly, at 0835 on 7 November a Pakistani jet travelling at a speed of 730 km per hour, entered the airspace of Afghanistan from the direction of (Koh-e Dur) and after 1 minute of reconnaissance in to the Shahwali (Dokan) region, Khowst District, returned to Pakistan from the direction of (Koh-e Gorbuz).

Similarly, a Pakistani helicopter penetrated the airspace of Afghanistan at 0730 on 7 November from the direction of (Nesal Kadu) and then returned to Pakistan in the direction of (Neshtar Nawa).

Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan once again strongly protests these provocative actions and blatant violations by the Pakistani Armed Forces, and asks the Pakistani authorities to end these violations, otherwise the responsibility for their dangerous consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Military Official on Situation in Nangarhar

LD1011194788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Remarks by Colonel Amir Muhammad, deputy commander of I Corps; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Assessing the military and political situation in recent months in the region of Nangarhar, Laghman and Konarha, we can draw the conclusion that the extremist groups, supported by Pakistan and the United States, conducted extensive, aggressive operations in accordance with a prearranged plan that involved the personnel, weapons, and techniques of the Army and militias of Pakistan, in open violation of the Geneva accords. The main objective of this plan was to achieve specific military and political results prior to the elections in Pakistan and the United States.

The extremist bands, in cooperation with Pakistani military officials, have tried to welcome the change of leadership in the countries that support them by making formidable political and military gains: the complete occupation of Nangarhar Province.

Their immediate objective was to occupy and cut off the Kabul-Jalalabad and Halabad-Towr Kham highways. Their subsequent objective was to bring about the fall of border districts and the capital of Nangarhar Province, Jalalabad.

Recent events show that they caused disruptions, first on the Jalalabad-Kabul highway in the regions of (Karokhle), (Tanki-e Abreshim), and around Sorkh Ab on 11 October by dispatching, deploying, and strengthening their [words indistinct] forces. The situation intensified until 28 October in the region of Towr Kham, (Kamadaka), and the districts of Batsawul, Shenwari, Nazian, and Achin.

With this adventurist and barbarous action and broad intimidation of the inhabitants in the above regions, the enemy intensified its attacks on security posts, particularly on border militias. It is now clear that during their attacks on Towr Kham, on customs installations, and on security personnel, Pakistani Army tanks and heavy weapons continuously shelled positions from military posts and heights on the other side of the border. Contrary to the norms of international law, humane principles, and previous bilateral agreements, they cut off the supply of water to government employees in Towr Kham. They did not stop here. They aggressively crossed the border and savagely set fire to installations in Towr Kham.

The situation has intensified since 31 October. The enemy has been involved in setting fire to houses in the villages of Batsawul and Shenwar Districts; they have killed a number of innocent compatriots in pursuit of their anti- Afghan, anti-Islamic and inhuman plans. At the same time they have maintained intensive fire on Jalalabad city and the surrounding areas using long-range weapons and [name indistinct] missiles supplied to the extremist groups by Pakistan and the United States after the conclusion of the Geneva accords. About 175 civilians have been killed as a result of this barbarous action.

Under these circumstances, units of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province, with the cooperation of the noble people of this province, organized combat operations along the Jalalabad-Kabul highway as a result of which crushing blows were inflicted on the extremists. The Kabul-Jalalabad highway is now open to traffic. We are ready to launch a similar operation on the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway and to restore security throughout historic Nangarhar Province.

The morale of the personnel in the units of the Armed Forces deployed in Nangarhar Province is high and I would like to assure our dear compatriots that we can deal effective blows on the enemy wherever they seek to disrupt the situation.

Kabul Increases Use of Scud; Scud-B's Arrive

BK1111130288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1233 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 11 (AFP)—The Afghan Army attacked rebel bases around Kabul with Soviet-supplied Scud missiles as the mujahidin claimed control Friday of a key garrison near the eastern city of Jalalabad, Western diplomats here said.

Resistance sources here said the mujahidin had captured the Samar Kheyl garrison, considered the last line of defence for Jalalabad.

Rebel artillery was pounding Jalalabad airport Thursday and a major battle for control of the garrison city, 150 kilometers (95 miles) west of Kabul, was in the offing, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said here.

However another pro-mujahidin news agency based in Pakistan, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP), said it could not confirm that Samar Kheyl had fallen to the rebels, saying fighting was continuing in the area to clear remaining bases before seizing the garrison located 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Jalalabad.

The main highway linking Jalalabad with Towr Kham post on Pakistan's border had been closed for more than one week and guerrillas have repulsed an attempt to reopen the road, the AIP said.

Independent sources could not immediately confirm the fall of Samar Kheyl but diplomats citing colleagues in Kabul said the road was under the virtual control of the mujahidin and that Jalalabad's link with Kabul had been cut.

Western diplomats in Kabul said Afghan troops have fired at least 15 surface-to-surface missiles in the east, south-east and north of Kabul in the past three days.

As rebels stepped up their attacks, the diplomats Thursday sighted fresh arrivals at Kabul airport of SS-1 Scud B-type missiles with a range of up to 300 kilometers (186 miles), they said.

The diplomats said two IL-76 planes, throwing unusually heavy flares, landed at Kabul airport Thursday while four high flying fighter aircraft cruised at high speed overhead.

The missile re-load was then towed in separate convoys of flatbed trucks each with two Scuds, the diplomats said, but gave no figures.

The regime forces are intensifying the use of Scud missiles in response to the flare-up in the military situation, attacking known rebel areas in northern, eastern and southern Afghan provinces, they said.

The diplomats said that in addition to targetting rebel bases Tora Bora, Shamshad and Marolagad, in Nangarhar border areas, Scuds have also landed in the rebels' north-eastern stronghold of Panjshir.

The northeastern valley located near the Salang Highway used by withdrawing Soviet forces is controlled by top rebel Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud with whom the Soviets have repeatedly sought a truce.

The state-run Radio Kabul has been reporting daily clashes in an average of 10 of Afghanistan's 28 provinces.

7 Scuds Fired at Mujahidin

BK1111145888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1449 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, Nov 11 (AFP)—The Afghan Army fired seven Soviet-supplied Scud missiles at Afghan resistance bases around Kabul early Friday as the rebels claimed to have captured a key garrison near the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Eye-witnesses said the missiles, with a range of some 180 kilometres (112 miles), were fired in an eastward direction in quick succession from a silo here at about 5.40 a.m.

Last week, the Afghan Army fired several Scud missiles at Afghan resistance, or mujahidin, bases in the same area.

Western diplomats here said at least 10 Scud missiles have been used in a stepped-up Afghan Army offensive against the rebels since they were supplied by Moscow. [passage omitted]

TASS Reports 'Extremist' Attack on Kabul

LD1211104988 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1025 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, 12 Nov (TASS)—The reports have come in that extremists carried out an artillery attack on the Afghan capital on Friday evening. Seven shells were fired. As a result of this crime, one person was killed, a 7-year- old child was injured, and many building were damaged There was an explosion in a shop this morning in the Bibi Mahru area on the way to the airport. There were casualties. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Attack Posts Near Qandahar

BK1011082588 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have conducted an operation on security posts near Qandahar city, destroying five tanks and four military trucks. Agency reports say that mujahidin are now about 200 meters from the city security belt. According to another report, mujahidin also captured a number of Kabul regime tractors loaded with arms, which have been sent to these posts.

Mujahidin Overrun Key Garrison Town

BK1111094688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 11 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas have overrun the last major Army base between the key eastern Afghanistan garrison town of Jalalabad and the border with Pakistan, a pro-mujahidin news agency said Friday.

Samar Kheyl was captured by the mujahidin rebels overnight Wednesday and Thursday, according to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY.

However another pro-mujahidin news agency based in Pakistan, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS AGENCY, said Friday it could not confirm that Samar Kheyl had fallen to the rebels.

"Fighting is continuing around Samar Kheyl," a member of the news agency, based in the northwest Pakistan city of Peshawar, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The Afghan army base, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of Jalalabad, is seen as the last line of defence for Jalalabad from rebels advancing on the capital of Nangarhar Province from the east.

If the capture of Samar Kheyl is confirmed, Jalalabad, located 150 kilometres (95 miles) west of Kabul, will be the only major garrison town in the way of a rebel advance on the Afghan capital.

Samar Kheyl has been the target of incessant rebel attacks in the past few days.

The mujahidin last week captured the Afghan-Pakistan border post of Towr Kham and another major Afghan Army base, Ghani Kheyl, to the east of Jalalabad.

Independent confirmation of the capture of Samar Kheyl was not immediately available Friday.

'Extremists' Crushed; Weapons Seized

LD1011180088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting an Armed Forces spokesman, BAKHTAR reports that 128 warmongering extremists, supported by Pakistan and the United States, were crushed yesterday and today in the region of Konduz, Qandahar, Parwan, Wardak, Helmand, and Kabul Provinces by the Armed Forces.

As a result of mopping up operations by the Armed Forces in the region of Konduz city yesterday and today with direct cooperation from the inhabitants, 22 extremists were killed and another 15 were injured. During this operation 25 light weapons were seized by the security forces.

As a result of blows by the Armed Forces on the enemy in Towr Kotal and Sarposa regions seven criminal extremists were killed. One enemy mortar and a DShK were destroyed.

Twenty armed extremists were killed in the region of Parwan Province as a result of blows inflicted by the Armed Forces. A large number of enemy weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report 18 extremists were killed and 8 criminals were seriously injured in the region of Vardak Province as a result of blows inflicted by the Armed Forces.

Another report from Helmand Province says that the evil plans of the criminal extremists, who were concentrated in Nad-e Ali District and aimed at disrupting the peaceful life of the inhabitants, was foiled by the Armed Forces. (?Sixteen) members of the extremist groups were crushed; and 15 heavy and light weapons and a quantity of ammunition, were seized by the Armed Forces.

As a result of mopping up operations yesterday in (Eshpolibaba) village, Sarowbi District, 25 extremists were crushed and 6 light weapons were seized.

According to another report, as a result of mopping up operations by the Armed Forces in the environs of Dehsabz District today five surface-to-surface missiles which were deployed there to be fired on the residential regions of Kabul city, were seized together with two communication sets.

Twelve missiles which were deployed in (Chaperhar) Subdistrict, Nangarhar Province, to be fired on the residential regions of Jalalabad city were discovered and seized by the security forces.

According to another report from Balkh Province, extremists launched 12 surface-to-surface missiles on the residential areas of Balkh District in order to disrupt the peaceful life of the people. As a result of this crime five persons, including women and children, were injured. Four houses and one oil extraction machine were destroyed.

Rebels Killed in Shenwari

LD1011175088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] A BIA military section correspondent reports this evening from Jalalabad city that due to the Armed Forces' crushing attacks yesterday on extremists groups' hideouts in Shenwari major-district, 158 rebels were killed including one of their ringleaders, Qadir. These attacks injured 150 extremists and destroyed their hideouts.

Operations in Provinces

LD1111190188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Citing a responsible source in the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR reports that yesterday and today the Armed Forces inflicted crushing blows on extremist groups backed by the United States and Pakistan, killing 672 and injuring 135 of these criminals in the surroundings of the provinces of Nangarhar, Helmand, Paktia and Badghis.

During mopping-up operations in the areas around Khugianay District and in the area of (Barikab), Nangarhar Province, against the hideouts of the extremists, the Armed Forces killed 250 and injured 43 of these criminals who were disrupting the peace and security in those regions and creating a climate of fear by firing heavy weapons into residential areas.

During these operations the Armed Forces seized 4 surface-to-surface missile launching systems, 3 recoilless guns, 2 mortars, 1 heavy machine gun, 13 light weapons, 8 antivehicle mines, 1 communications system, and a large amount of ammunition.

At present the situation is completely calm in Jalalabad city. A BAKHTAR reporter interviewed a number of our compatriots in Jalalabad city, to which we draw your attention. [passage indistinct]

Three hundred and forty warmongering extremists were killed by new and modern weapons fire directed by the Armed Forces at the hideouts and arms caches of the armed extremists in the border regions of Nangarhar Province, from where they fired heavy weapons at the residential areas and villages of Shenwari District and neighboring regions with the direct support and backing of Pakistani militias. And their arms and ammunition caches as well as a convoy of arms and ammunition, which was entering the district of Mohmand Darrah, Nangarhar Province, were eliminated and destroyed.

The country's Armed Forces have also inflicted crushing blows on the armed extremists during the last 2 days in the Zarmal and (Sayyed Karam) Districts and in the areas around Gardeyz city. As a result 96 extremist elements were killed and 92 others injured. Two heavy guns and 120 light weapons of the enemy were destroyed.

The Armed Forces of Helmand Province yesterday crushed 16 armed extremists, including their ringleader [placename indistinct], belonging to the extremist band of Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi, in the environs of that province and seized their arms and ammunition, which included light and heavy weapons.

As a result of mopping up operations by the Armed Forces in the village of [placename indistinct], Badghis Province, a number of criminal extremists, who were disrupting the peaceful life of the people, were crushed and two of their weapons were seized by the Armed Forces.

Yesterday and today criminal extremists savagely fired 150 missiles at residential areas of Gardeyz city. As a result of this anti-Islamic and inhumane action by the extremists, five of our compatriots, including a woman and a child, were martyred and four were injured. In addition, the communal mosque of Osman-e Ghani and the mosque of Etafaq Mena were damaged, and 39 houses of our compatriots were slightly damaged.

'Extremists' Crushed on Kabul Road

LD1211144888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Recent operations by the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province and on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway again clearly displayed that units and companies of the Armed Forces are enjoying high combat preparedness and effective fire power. As a result of these operations, hundreds of the saboteurs attached to extremist groups, supported by Pakistan and the United States, were crushed.

The BIA military section correspondent reports that over 210 robbers and thieves attached to extremist groups who attempted to disrupt the flow of traffic and security of the travellers were crushed during mopping operation carried out by the Armed Forces.

An officer who took part in these operations said during an interview that in order to clear Nangarhar Province of extremists, the country's Armed Forces launched a broad mopping up operation, and put the gathering points of the volunteer soldiers [as heard] under crushing blows.

The BIA military section correspondent reports that the Armed Forces crushed 340 men in the Nangi region, where they intended to enter Nangarhar Province to carry out criminal activity. The Armed Forces also crushed 250 men in the districts of (Khogyani) and (Bareka), while 150 men, including Qadir, one of their ringleaders, were crushed in Shenwari District. The report adds that units of the Armed Forces have begun a broad mopping-up operation in Nangarhar Province, and have crushed the enemy in Barikat region.

The units are continuing their operations. Major General 'Abdul Ghafur, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, said that the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province have inficted heavy losses on the extremist groups, while a large amount of weapons and ammunition were seized.

As a result of crushing blows inflicted by the Armed Forces, the warmongering extremists concentrated around Qandahar city were forced to retreat. The BIA military section reports that the situation in Qandahar city is now to normal, and peace and security have been restored. The report adds the the office of the Khalis extremist group in [words indistinct].

Mujahidin Deny Road Open

BK1311101788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 13 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas have killed 74 Kabul troops and captured 11 security posts on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway in the past two days, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said Sunday.

The AIP said 74 Kabul troops had been killed and 98 captured, and denied a report by official Afghan radio that government forces had managed to reopen the highway.

Both sides have said they inflicted heavy casualties in intensified fighting between mujahidin guerrillas and Soviet-backed Kabul troops in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar and Kabul in the past few days.

The official Afghan news agency BAKHTAR said in a dispatch monitored here Sunday that 210 people belonging to "extremist" groups hindering the traffic flow on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway had recently been "crushed" by the Armed Forces.

The mujahidin control most of the highway linking Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar Province, with the Khyber Pass checkpoint of Towr Kham on the Pakistani border and have also blocked the route between Jalalabad and Kabul, resistance sources said.

Kabul radio had said Friday that its troops had reopened the highway linking Jalalabad with Kabul.

The guerrillas killed 17 soldiers and captured six, and destroyed 15 tanks and military vehicles of an Afghan Army convoy which tried to reopen the 150 kilometres (90 miles) long Kabul-Jalalabad highway near Farman Kheyl area Saturday, AIP said.

Twenty-four troops were killed and 47 captured late Saturday when mujahidin attacked and captured three security posts in Zara Kala and Kaftar Khaneh areas, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of Jalalabad, the agency said. In these attacks guerrillas destroyed 12 tanks and vehicles and captured a tank in perfect condition, it added.

In several separate operations in the past two days near Orishmin Tangi area along the highway the mujahidin killed 33 soldiers and captured 45, taking eight security posts, it said. The agency said only four mujahidin were killed and 14 injured in all the operations.

Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq returned home Saturday after taking part in the 43d session of U.N. General Assembly in New York, BAKHTAR said.

Towr Khan-Jalalabad Road Cleared

LD1311181888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Today at 1545 the Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway was cleared of extremists. A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports from Towr Kham that combat operations began at 0600 in the Hazar Now region and inflicted quick crushing blows in Hazar Now, (Ghazagi), (Gardi Ghos), Kamkay, (Khaybar), clearing the areas of mercenary extremists, Pakistani mercenaries, and foreign advisers

who had been engaging in armed provocations. The Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway was opened today at 1630. The correspondent adds that during today's operations 96 extremists were crushed and 71 injured. [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari at 1600 GMT on 13 November reports that 69 "extremists" were crushed.]

As a result of these operations the following were seized: rocket projectiles, 3 guns, 3 boxes of ZK-1 shells, 44 mortar shells, 10,000 DShK shells, 317 mines, and 217 shells of [word indistinct]. Two trucks packed with arms and ammunition belonging to the extremists were destroyed.

Further on Kabul-Jalabad Road

LD1411063888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 13, BAKHTAR—Seventy-two armed extremists were killed and three ringleaders captured due to a mopping up operation which took place by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in Basul and Marko areas, Mohmand District of Nangarhar Province, reports reaching here say.

During this operation, a large quantity of arms and weapons including 372 surface-to-surface rockets and 207 rocket shells were also captured.

In sum, in a mopping up operation took place in Nangarhar province, 490 extremists were killed in the areas related to Ghogyani District and Shenwari Grand District in the past two days alone.

In this connection, General 'Abdul Ghafur, deputy chief of staffs and administration commander in Nangarhar province in an interview said that owing to these mopping up operations the traffic is open now to Kabul-Jalalabad highway. He assured that the enemies are not able to resist the blows of the Armed Forces.

A paratrooper of the Armed Forces in an interview said that the paratroopers have inflicted crushing blows on the extremists.

Both General 'Abdul Ghafur and the paratrooper interview have assured the inhabitants of Jalalabad city and Surkh road district that the Armed Forces are in their servive for securing peace there.

Bangladesh

Ershad Departs Dhaka 13 Nov for U.S. Visit

BK1311081088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] President Ershad left Dhaka a short while ago for Jeddah on his way to New York on a 5-day official visit to the United States. Vice President Nurul Islam saw him off at the airport. Also present were deputy prime ministers, ministers, chiefs of three services, diplomats, and high civil and military officials. [passage omitted]

2 Critically Injured in Student Clashes

BK1411061988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 14 (AFP)—Two student activists were critically injured during last 24 hours in clashes amid growing political violence in Bangladesh, press reports here Monday said.

An activist of Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of Begum Khaleda Zia's opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was stabbed Sunday at the Dhaka University campus, the daily SANGBAD said.

It said the student was admitted to a local hospital in a critical state, but gave no other details.

In western Pabna District, an activist of Chatro Moitree, an alliance of leftist student organisations, was admitted Sunday to a local hospital in a critical condition following clashes with the pro-Awami League Chatra League, the NEW NATION reported.

The paper also reported that some youths in nearby Narayanganj District late Sunday torched a bus of the state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) following a brawl over fares. The driver of the bus was injured in the incident, its said.

The youths refused to pay increased bus fares which came into effect recently. Officials were not immediately available for comment.

Oppostion Announces New Anti-Ershad Campaign

BK1011134088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 10 (AFP)—Bangladesh opposition leaders Thursday announced new anti-government campaigns during protests marking the first anniversary of a "Dhaka Siege" that had failed to unseat President Hussain Mohammed Ershad.

Three bombs exploded as Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Begum Khaleda Zia led a march of some 4,000 people through downtown Gulistan District, minutes after announcing her party's new program, witnesses said.

There were no casualties and no-one claimed responsibility for the blasts, which a police officer said were caused by home-made bombs. The incident occurred near an office of Sheikh Hasina Wajed's opposition Awami League.

Begum Zia had earlier announced at a rally of some 8,000 people a two week-long program by the BNP-led seven-party alliance aimed at "forcing the resignation" of Mr Ershad and his seven-year old government.

The program would begin Tuesday with nationwide protest meetings against the government's alleged failure to solve Bangladesh's flood problems and would culminate in a half-day general strike on November 28.

The fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami Party, which held a rally at the downtown Purana Paltan District, announced an identical protest program with a half-day general strike in the capital on the same day.

Some 6,000 party activists and supporters shouting anti-government slogans and calling for Mr Ershad's resignation attended the rally addressed by Jamaat leader Abbas Ali Khan, witnesses said.

Sheikh Hasina, who has publicly criticized Begum Zia over the failure of the Dhaka Siege movement, announced a separate program at a rally of the Awami League-led eight-party alliance attended by an estimated 10,000 people.

The month-long protest campaign, named "Movement Against Autocracy and Fundamentalism", would also begin Tuesday including demonstrations and rallies in the capital on December 10 but no calls for a general strike.

Sheikh Hasina in her address attacked the BNP and the Jamaat for alleged collaboration with the Army and government and said her League and eight-party alliance would fight alone to restore democracy and peoples' rights.

The left-wing five-party group of Nirmal Sen held a small rally in Eastern Gulistan Road where it announced an anti-government protest plan including demonstrations in Dhaka on November 28 and on December 10.

The opposition had united for the first time to launch the Dhaka Siege, but the parties' failure to force Mr Ershad to resign has been followed by mutual recriminations and disastrous floods that have dampened their activities.

The siege sparked three weeks of violence that left up to 12 people dead, hundreds injured and thousands including top politicians arrested.

Mr Ershad, ignoring calls for his resignation, dissolved parliament, proclaimed a 120-day state of emergency and announced fresh elections March 3 in an eventually successful move to quell the unrest.

Begum Zia Thursday accused the government of being "illegitimate, corrupt and autocratic" and renewed her call for Mr Ershad's immediate resignation.

She said Mr Ershad must dissolve parliament before handing over power to a caretaker government to ensure free and fair elections, adding that her alliance would fight to the last to achieve its aims.

Police had clamped a tight security net for the siege anniversary, with armed police and riot squads positioned in key downtown areas.

India

Foreigners Asked To Carry Passports Till 21 Nov

BK1111160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] An official press release in New Delhi says all foreigners while in Delhi should carry with them passports and other travel documents. These will have to be produced on demand to any police officer or to any other person connected with internal security. This will be in force till the 21st of this month.

Retired General, Scientist Arrested for Espionage

BK1211161088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] has arrested a retired brigadier of the Indian Army, R.S. Deol, and a scientist, Dr Nirurkar, for allegedly selling defense secrets to some foreign countries.

According to a CBI spokesman, the arrests were made during the last 2 days. Several incriminating documents, including some defense files, were seized from the residence of the brigadier in Delhi. Brigadier Deol officiated as a major general for some time before his retirement.

The spokesman said his associate, Dr Nirurkar, is attached to one of the central ministries. He also said that the two have been acting in league with the Delhi-based businessmen Jajodia and his son, who were already arrested.

A duty magistrate remanded Brigadier Deol to police custody till 19th of this month. The scientist has been sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

'Record Haul' of Narcotics Seized in Bombay

BK1411132588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] In a record haul of the decade, Bombay police and customs authorities have seized over 2,650 kilograms of narcotics worth over 80 crore rupees in the international market. In another raid, the customs authorities seized 2,600 kilograms of hashish from the city docks.

Iran

Montazeri's Letter to Prime Minister Musavi

WA13212488 London KEYHAN in Persian
3 Nov 88 p 12

[Letter of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, heir-designate to Ayatollah Khomeyni, to Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on 1 Oct 1988 after Musavi had already resigned and received President Khamene'i's letter]

Esteemed Prime Minister Musavi

In the name of the Almighty

1. After the war major changes in the economy, politics, and relations with the people were expected.

2. Shortages, injustices, inflation, lack of sufficient income, extreme price discrepancies—the source of which is the government itself—lack of expertise and compassion, a miserly attitude, rigidity of certain trade officials in the country's import-export sector, interference and usurpation by many organizations such as the Guards and the Martyrs' Foundation regarding unchecked trade have totally paralyzed the country's economic situation.

3. The government's foreign trade policy has not been successful. Twenty percent is a very small number. [sentence as published] The government must have better control.

4. These days leftist and reactionary countries have realized their mistakes and follow an open-door policy, giving more consideration to the people. It is necessary to replace totally miserly, rigid, and inconsiderate officials because some people cannot change their ways.

5. Today, the pretense of war has been eliminated. Little by little queues and ration coupons should be eliminated and the people should be given more consideration.

6. The government-imposed punishments have not been successful. They have caused many problems. For example, the actual running of the government is in the hands of immature children who hold grudges. This very policy has been the cause of many shortages and inequalities. You should not put your trust fully in the reports of the officials.

7. Many offices and organizations—Information, the Guards, komitehs, prosecution, interrogation—must reconsider their ways. We will get no results with frequent arrests, harshness, punishments, detentions, and killings. Besides, we will cause discontent among the people who are the country's and the revolution's capital assets. We will cause irreparable injustice to many people because of the officials and those in charge. Dominion is perpetrated through goodwill; it is not perpetrated through injustice.

The world also condemns us with its propaganda and we will be politically isolated. With regard to arrests and punishments, we should use them only when necessary. The sacred religion of Islam is based on tolerance and clemency. The surahs [chapters] of the Koran begin with "in the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful." Our prophet is merciful to the world, and Amir Al-Mo'menin ['Ali], addressing the owner of a camel, said: "Have mercy, love, and compassion in your heart towards your subjects and do not be a fierce beast seeking to devour them, for they are either your brothers in religion or beings created in your likeness.

Their hands do good deeds as well as evil. Extend to them such forgiveness as you would have God extend to you. It is necessary to follow the example and the ways of the noble prophet, peace be upon him, during the conquest of Mecca and that of Amir al-Mo'menin, greetings to him, during the conquest of Basra.

8. We have several million Iranian refugees abroad. Even if 100,000 of them are against the revolution and Islam, the rest are indifferent and may even be interested in Islam and the revolution. They are interested in returning to their country. The propaganda, atmosphere, and the rigid attitude have frightened them. There are many professionals among them with reflective minds that are needed by the country. The mere existence of each one of them abroad is a means of propaganda against the nation and an indication of fear and harshness in the country.

It is necessary to declare a general amnesty. For instance, anyone referring to our embassies, the Foreign Ministry, the Information Office, or the Guards, and willing to sign a pledge to obey the rules of the country and those of divine law and refrain from violence could return freely to the country without be subjected to aggression and interrogation. Forgiveness for all that happened in the past is needed.

Furthermore, they should be able to bring in all the goods they are legally entitled to and invest in businesses and industries. This alone would attract people and investment capital and eliminate many of the shortages. It would be a new step after 10 years of revolution.

9. There are too many regulations and restrictions on investing in industry, agriculture, and animal husbandry. Something should be done so that the people can become interested and feel that their capital is safe and productive. If our nation is secure physically, financially, and has prestige, then it will not need foreign investment.

10. There should be complete coordination among the country's decisionmakers and various ministries regarding internal and foreign policies. There should be a mature and deliberate policy and the people should have a say in the basic problems Important decisions, communications, and courses of actions will not remain

secret. Intentional and politically motivated lies will be disclosed finally. Why should things be kept secret from the people when the enemy knows them and discloses them?

The correct Islamic policy is founded on sincerity and trust. Our people, thank God, are mature enough and can weigh for themselves the advantages and disadvantages.

11. Duplicate and costly offices, organizations, establishments should be gradually merged. Restrictive regulations should be eliminated. The essential idea is the well-being and health of the nation, not its corruption and misleading policies.

12. Actions should be taken as soon as possible regarding the multiplicity of military, disciplinary, and military industries organizations so that we will have a collective and coordinated military and disciplinary force and not be caught in duplicating expenses and efforts. It is obvious that the survival of our political life depends on the well-being, coordination, and discipline of these two forces.

13. The government must work harder at creating real and needed work and jobs, and give priority to industrial productivity, rather than to investment in consumer related areas and in ceremonies.

The addiction to and the spread of narcotics, social corruption, bribery, theft, and prostitution are caused by unemployment and the lack of legitimate income.

Instead of combating the real causes, we fight against the infirm. Consequently, we do not succeed. People are good by nature. They are not murderers by nature. They are drawn to corruption by need.

14. Affairs should be handled by brave, wise, professional, and devoted individuals. If a minister, an official, or the person in charge feels the work is too difficult, then wisdom and logic, conscience and religion dictate that he hand over the work to one who can accomplish it.

15. If we meet defeat somewhere, we should find the reasons why it happened, what factors were involved so that we may not find ourselves in the same position again. It is not enough to confess our mistakes and show displeasure. The replacement of officials and agents is a wise, God-loving, common act of the world.

Finally, try to have God witness your conduct and speech. Do not neglect God. Peace be with you. May God grant you success.

[Dated] 1 October 1988

Montazeri Meets With IRGC Minister

LD1111172688 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that IRGC Minister Mr Shamkhani and the depty IRGC ministers met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. The talks covered the issues and duties of the IRGC.

According to the same report, 30 million rials from funds donated by the people was given to the IRGC minister by the deputy leader in order to strengthen the fronts and to assist the border guards.

RESALAT Details Argument in Majlis

NC1111141588 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Nov 88 p 5

[Report on Islamic Majlis session in Tehran on 1 November by unidentified RESALAT correspondent]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prior to the announcement of the agenda at yesterday's open session of the Islamic Majlis, the Zarand deputy, Mr Majid Ansari, referred to a bill:

I wish to mention a bill which is not related to today's agenda. However, according to Clause 47 it says here regarding all bills and laws presented to the Majlis, that the speaker of the Majlis is obliged to make copies of all bills and laws presented for approval and to place them at the disposal of the deputies. This is to be done at the first opportunity available at the open session of the Majlis.

Also, the committee to which it pertains is to be informed immediately. He should then review the text and note how it is to be discussed. Some time ago, a bill was submitted by 100 deputies to the Majlis which was approved at priority precedence and which pertained to specifying the strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system.

Despite being approved at priority precedence and by a strong majority in Majlis, it was removed from the agenda by the Executive Committee in contravention of regulations, and simply disappeared. I request that the deputies who formulated the bill be informed of the fate of the bill which has vanished.

Clarification by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

In response to this allegation by Mr Ansari regarding the bill, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis said: I do not remember this item you have just mentioned. This bill pertains to the time when I was visiting the fronts and I was not present in the Majlis. I think the reason for its elimination by the gentlemen [of the Executive Committee] was that we were at war.

This bill had two sections: One was the continuation of war with Iraq and it was at that time that the imam issued a decree. This is a prerogative of the imam and it is not for the Majlis to say whether we continue with war or peace. This was one of the bill's problems.

The second pertained to foreign policy on which the imam has briefed the Foreign Ministry. At that time it was felt that these gentlemen [who presented the bill] wished to interfere in the imam's decree. For this reason it did not appear in the agenda. They were right in doing so and I endorse their action. This plan was not fit to be presented and it pertains to the imam's privileges, not to the Majlis.

Mr Ansari, look here! You have raised many such slogans and we know it. Please do not make any more noise and be seated. First of all, your allegation was irrelevant as only that bill can be discussed which is on the agenda. This is against the Constitution.

Mr Ansari! What results have you attained with raising such slogans that you have risen up once again. The imam's words are far more important to us than what I just mentioned. It was justified that this was not incorporated in the agenda. I endorse the action by the Executive Committee, and I consider what you said a mere slogan. Do not mention this again. We know the Majlis better than you do. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni Receives Relatives of Ayatollah Khatami
LD1111105288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Khatami, minister of culture and Islamic Guidance, accompanied by the other members of the deceased Ayatollah Khatami's family, were received yesterday morning by Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this meeting, the imam of ummah, having expressed his condolences on the demise of Ayatollah Khatami, wished them patience and fortitude.

Khomeyni Receives Lebanese Scholar 12 Nov
LD1211211288 Tehran Television Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Al-'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a militant scholar from Lebanon, was this morning received by Imam Khomeyni and held talks with his holiness.

Visiting Lebanese Muslim Leader Interviewed
LD1111073288 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov. 11, IRNA—The visiting head of the Lebanese Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said here Thursday world Muslims should work to protect the Islamic revolution of Iran and its objectives, namely defending the rights of the oppressed and freeing them from the shackles of domination.

The Lebanese leader who was in this western province said in an interview with IRNA that the Islamic Republic of Iran upholds the banner of the struggle against world imperialism and its agents in the region.

On anti-Zionist struggle of the Lebanese Muslims he said they are determined to continue the campaign until outrooting the usurper Zionist regime and establishment of sovereignty of Islam in Lebanon.

Asked about the reason for his trip to the western province of Bakhtaran he said he had travelled to the region to meet Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim 'ulema and Iraqi mujahidin. He said that he was impressed with the unity among the 'ulema.

Shaykh Sha'ban met with Iraqi mujahidin forces who have been fighting against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. He praised their struggle and encouraged them to continue the campaign.

Urges Islamic Unity
LD1111190988 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Nov. 11, IRNA—Visiting leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban stressed the world's Muslims are duty-bound to free Palestine out of the claws of the usurper Zionists.

Speaking before Friday prayers sermons of the city, Shaykh Sha'ban said Muslims should do their best in realizing Imam Khomeyni's motto for uniting Shi'ites with Sunnis.

Muslims have to frustrate the plots of those who attempt to divide the Islamic countries, noted the Lebanese Shaykh who arrived here today.

Shaykh Sha'ban emphasised the Islamic revolution of Iran is today an example for the world's Muslim combatants.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with Iraq's Kurdish theologian refugees Shaykh Sha'ban considered Iran a "center" for revival of true Islam in the world.

The shaykh said that presence of Iraqi Kurdish 'ulema proves the importance Iranian officials attach to Islamic movements throughout the globe.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

1st Sermon on Piety, Temptation

LD1111154288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 11 Nov 88

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 11 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic quotations, Arabic verses omitted] I invite our dear participants in the prayers to observe divine piety. I also recommend that they guard their deeds and thoughts against satanic temptations, and I invite all the dear brothers and sisters to obey the great God, who guards human beings against errors and permissiveness.

The topic I have chosen today concerns issues relating to the revolution. [passage omitted] However, before I start the debate I must give an outline: Today I shall talk on some aspects of it and in coming weeks I shall continue on this same theme.

The preamble to my debate is that for our people, from the victory of the revolution until now, the most important issue has been that of preserving the revolution. This issue continues to be of importance to our people because the revolution and the founding of the Islamic regime—giving us the opportunity to submit to God—rank as a great blessing. It is a blessing that the people have earned through crusades and sacrifices.

Their crusade earned them this blessing; they deserved this blessing and therefore God gave it to them. Naturally, people would want to preserve this great blessing. [passage omitted].

Thus, the divine promise was fulfilled—this great blessing, this historic revolution and this Islamic regime were preserved and gained strength every day. So today all international observers who look at our revolution and society confirm the fact that our society is much stronger and more stable today than it was 8 or 10 years ago, all due to the efforts of the people. As I said earlier, in the future our people will show the same effort. Today our society has brought up a young generation—no matter where they are—whose efforts and thoughts are directed toward defending Islam, this regime, and their country, a country which is the venue of the Islamic regime, against our enemies with all their strength.

This is an obvious point, obvious to our people, even to those who have had a lesser investment in the revolution. They all agree that the decisive majority of the people given their utmost for Islam and the Islamic regime.

However, there are certain points relating to the future. If our people pay attention to these points, in view of the very important circumstances in the world, our nation can continue to strengthen their revolution and regime. They build their country better than before. [passage omitted]

The most important of these points is the fact that the danger to an Islamic regime is not confined to external threats, that is, dangers threatening the regime from outside the borders. External danger is only part of the overall danger. As well as external danger there is another danger which relates to us, we who own houses and are members of this society and country. Dangers may well threaten the revolution and the country which come from within. We must recognize them and stand against them.

As the imam said in his recent message, we must even use the sword of Islamic justice to confront the internal danger. Therefore, we must be on guard. That is what my debate is about: the dangers threatening the regime and Islam from within Islamic society. [passage omitted]

Now the question is being raised: Is it possible for an Islamic regime with a good Islamic situation as we have to be endangered by the people themselves, those very owners of the regime and members of the same family? The Koran answers this question. [passage omitted] The Koran's reply is a positive one. Yes, it is possible. [passage omitted] You must know that once God gives a blessing He will never take it back from you. There is only one thing that can remove the blessing given by God to a nation and that is the decision of that nation to change and transform its lifestyle into an undesirable form. If this is done then the blessing will be taken from them. [passage omitted]

Can nations benefiting from God's blessing refrain from doing evil deeds in order not to lose God's blessing? Of course, they can. If a nation is wise and succeeds in controlling its own desires and internal social currents, if a nation manages to have the right kind of control over its domestic problems, then that nation will remain sound. [passage omitted]

The issue is this: What should an Islamic society do to ensure that the blessings of Islam will be safeguarded? What should a nation, that has engaged in self-sacrifice and has brought about a revolution within an Islamic context and in the direction of Islam, do to ensure that this blessing will remain and will not be lost? This is an important point.

Some may ask what has this got to do with the people. Those who are more responsible for the loss of this blessing are found in certain sectors of the population, to which I shall refer later. The majority of the people are usually with the revolution and act in concert with the

revolution and are engaged in self-sacrifice. All of us aware of the 8-year-long battles, and we saw how people acted with self-sacrifice and were mobilized.

The people demonstrated their presence in all the other scenes of the revolution, before, during, and after the war. What has this got to do with the people? I say that it is true that if a problem or a danger may threaten the revolution, it usually comes from some special groups. How can we stress upon these groups to watch themselves and not commit a mistake?

How can we make those groups whose actions might lead to problems understand and how can we guide them or force them to refrain from committing those mistakes? Can it be done by issuing orders? By mere advice? No, these concepts should become part of the general culture of the society. The public should know what steps should be taken in order to safeguard the revolution and the Islamic system and what actions should be avoided.

Public opinion has the power to make sure that those whose actions may have a positive or negative effect will do those things that are in the interest of the system and will refrain from those actions that are harmful. The people should be exposed to Islamic principles until they become part of their culture and their character.

Therefore, in our view, this is an extremely important issue that should be borne in mind. I do not wish to go into great detail. I referred to some general points and minds have become receptive. In brief, I should say that if corruption—moral corruption, all kinds of moral corruption—found its way into an Islamic society, this is a dangerous germ. If disunity found its way into an Islamic society, and if clashes between individuals are found in an Islamic society, this would also be one of those very harmful and dangerous germs.

If principles are neglected, if those principles are forgotten—for the sake of which the revolution and the movement were carried out and which are regarded as Islamic principles in an Islamic society—this is also a major threat.

There are three important headings: first, moral corruption of different types; second, differences in the form of clashes, not differences of opinion, which I shall refer to in the second sermon with regard to the remarks of his holiness the imam. By differences I mean engaging in clashes, in suppressing one another, individuals and groups negating each other. If differences appear in this form, this, too, would be a great danger.

Third, if the principles and main slogans are forgotten, if those things which Islam enjoins and for the sake of which it has come into being were forgotten, this will also be a major danger. These are the three major headings. [passage omitted]

2d Sermon on Khomeyni Message

LD1111161688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1258 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 11 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] The subject matter of my second sermon is, first, a reference to the main points of the his eminence the imam's recent message and the letter that has justly been called the Charter of Brotherhood by the press. Later, I will briefly talk about the course of the negotiations in Geneva between the Iranian and Iraqi delegations and our own views in that regard.

With respect to his eminence the imam's recent message, I must say that the message was truly one of the most healing and most blessed messages issued by his eminence. God be praised, the blessings of the existence of that dear person for our nation and for all Muslims who are aware of the issues involved in our revolution are received by our people every day and the meaning of Islamic leadership, which is just that constant presence and constant attention given to matters and constant guidance, is realized.

It was a very comprehensive and interesting message and the lack of that message, the lack of its clarification of topics was truly felt. Although our dear imam has repeatedly recommended unity, brotherhood, friendship, and coordination between all the people of the nation, nevertheless its presentation in the form of a single message was a necessary and useful thing which, God be praised, was placed at the disposal of our nation and our history.

The main point of the message consists of several issues. First, differences of opinion and taste with respect to various issues is not a new development and the articulation of the existence of differences of opinion must not disturb or upset anyone; it must not be considered an extraordinary thing.

No. Among our 'ulema, Islamic jurisprudents, and former religious scholars just these differences of opinion and taste concerning matters of Islamic jurisprudence and practical things existed. Examples have been given. Our dear imam has mentioned tens of examples in his message, ranging from social issues pertaining to government, social issues pertaining to the structure of society, popular issues, economic issues, political, religious. Numerous examples have been given.

If you look in your own books, you will find that Islamic jurisprudents held different views and opinions and gave varying instructions. In the past, however, those differences of opinion existed in books. They were not published at the level of the general public. Now differences of opinion are, rationally and naturally, published at the level of the general public and other ideas may be derived from that.

Therefore, regarding the country's economic questions, for example, you may find that there are two opinions, or three opinions, or various opinions, or that one group has one opinion and that another group has another opinion; this is only natural. It is not an undesirable development. Let me say now that it may even be a good thing from certain points of view, because it opens for the people the field of study, thought, and correct and free theological scholarship.

Another issue devolving from the previous one is this: If you find that in our country there are two currents of thought and of politics, it does not mean that the people involved in the two currents have fundamental differences, in other words that they have different ideas. No, the differences that now exist are not ideological, but political. Political differences mean this: Even though the two groups agree on economic issues or economic aims, they may, nevertheless, for various reasons, such as attachments, sympathies, emotional issues, past histories, familiarities, have different ways in expressing and interpreting their ideas.

The two sides, the two groups, may have become convinced that they disagree with one another, that they think differently. Each group pays greater attention to the interests of its own group. Therefore, the differences are not profound. It is not true that the foundations of their thoughts and ideas are also different. That assertion of the imam is totally apposite, correct, and clearsighted.

All those who today, in this country and within this society, speak in the name of Islam and the revolution—such as the responsible officials throughout the country—accept basic Islamic tenets, are devoted to them, and sacrifice themselves to these aims: devotion to Islam, the revolution, interests of the people, and I add to this, the devotion and sincere attachment to the imam. [crowd chants]

All those who are involved in such trends... [Khamene'i changes thought] As the imam put it: The majority or the decisive majority of those people—the imam referred to the decisive majority—act for a reason which we should pay attention to, that is, it is not improbable that there are people who blend into this or that trend and chant slogans out of spite and malice. They do this because they enjoy creating discord within Islamic society. [passage omitted] That is what imam means by the decisive majority, as the decisive majority is comprised of those individuals who have achieved certain responsible positions.

Who is a Majlis deputy but an individual who the people of his town have trusted and sent to the Majlis? [passage omitted] The decisive majority of the two trends are of the same opinion. However, when for example, the purpose is that of achieving economic growth, then one trend may propose one course of action, regarding it as the only means to that end; whereas the other trend proposes another course of action. The goals are the same, the intentions are the same, the beliefs are the same, but the discernment of concepts differ. This is by no means a structural difference; and this is the next advice Khomeyni graciously expressed, and to which we should really pay attention.

All individuals, even those—I should point out that the majority of people bear no affiliation with such trends and lines; these lines and trends are our responsibility, the responsibility of the officials and those who hold various ranks and titles; the people follow the line of Islam and have no interest in this or that trend—who are in either of these trends are devoted to Islam, the revolution, the national interests and the independence of the country should harbor good intentions and bear no grudge against one another.

The other advice in the message is that the people and those involved in these trends should not forget the common enemies, those enemies who wish to create discord within the Islamic society. When two brothers feel that someone wishes to create discord between them, to catch fish from muddy water, what should they do? They should not allow any discord to come between them, and even if they had any differences, they should keep it to themselves. Or if the difference could be resolved, they should resolve them through negotiation, discussions, and eye to eye encounters, and without creating havoc and through commotions. Do not think that the enemy has forgotten us. [passage omitted]

Another piece of advice in this message is something I call state of self-deceit, which is a great danger, and creates the illusion that one is working for God, that one is working according to Islamic devotions and oblivious to the fact that he is actually working for himself to satisfy his own desires. [passage omitted]

There is another exhortation that the imam has given saying that none of us should consider ourselves free from faults. For instance, if I believe that anyone who says anything against me or against my friends or against the current of thought that is associated with me renders himself worthy of attack or even murder, he must be fought with all available might. No! Do you think you are so infallible that you can condemn anyone who says anything against you?

Therefore, you must accept criticism. Actually, we all have faults, many faults. Some of these faults may be found out by someone and mentioned. This must encourage us to reform ourselves. Nobody should consider himself perfect. As a rule, try to bring hearts close to one another by mentioning faults about each other. Those destructive elements who come and incite one group against another must be demolished. You must not listen to them and if you see that someone is trying to make you angry by stirring up issues, you must approach that person with suspicion.

I sincerely believe that if we listen to these exhortations, then definitely all the existing differences and arguments—which, praise to God, are not very profound—will cease to exist.

I suggest that those groups who occupy a leading position in society, such as universities for instance, whose dualities will give rise to this notion that differences do exist, should try to close the gap as much as possible. The different groups of clergy must exchange views and come closer to one another. We do not say that the various groups that are formed out of the body of clerics should cease to exist. No, let them be; but they should sit down, talk, and exchange views. Or in universities for instance, the students' Islamic formations must have more power to attract those groups that may not agree with them in all respects.

They should be tolerated and listened to. Within the governmental organs the same should apply; those who are heading a department and are assigned the task of managing affairs should try not to become involved in issues pertaining to group loyalties and different currents of thought when they are considering hiring personnel. If a director or a manager intends to employ an assistant he should look to see who deserves the post, no matter which of the two currents of thought he espouses.

When there is belief in Islam, the Koran, the revolution, and care for the people's welfare as well as love for the imam, then it does not matter to which current one belongs, as the imam has rightly pointed out in his message. This should not be judged as the criterion, that is, recruitments should not take place on the basis of currents of thought.

My feeling is that if, God willing, all of us—particularly the officials and the clergy—always bear in mind the imam's paternal, caring, and guiding message, then we will in reality achieve a charter for fraternity. Then these arguments that we may sometimes have in our society will be reduced or eliminated altogether. Of course, I must point out that what [differences] exists in our society are neglegible compared to what we see in other societies in the world. This is due to the fact that in this society there is faith in God and belief in the Koran and Islam. All over the world rival groups make dangerous moves against each other. They do not think it suffices to say a word or two against each other. [passage omitted]

The second point I would like to make concerns the Geneva negotiations. There is one point I would like to put before you dear people briefly. This point is that the policy and strategy of the Iraqi regime is to lengthen these negotiations, and prevent the implementation of provisions of the resolution. This is their policy that is clearly visible to us by the positions the Iraqi regime adopts. Those who were once doubtful should remember that this is the same regime and the same government that was stressing the implementation of Resolution No 598 more than a year ago.

In all meetings between the officials of Iraq and those of other countries this issue was on the agenda, namely discussion on Resolution No 598. Furthermore, several years ago they insisted on establishing a cease-fire and peace. Today, however, the experience from the performance of the Iraqi regime reveals how empty those words were; how honest they were when they talked about backing the implementation of Resolution No 598. This is something we kept repeating, but there were many in the world who were incapable of understanding it.

Unfortunately, sometimes inside our own society, our own country, malicious and suspicious people who never want to accept a correct assertion and to express their trust, would also say: Yes, why is it the case that Iraq accepts Resolution No 598 and you do not accept it?

The UN resolution was accepted by both sides several months ago and has been agreed to by the parties involved. However, on a practical level, irrelevant excuses and unconnected matters are constantly brought up during the discussion in order that Iraq can drag things out and to do everything possible to prevent the implementation of the resolution's clauses. .

What is our policy? Just as we said, we have accepted Resolution No 598 and we are serious about it. As for what is of primary importance today and must be addressed and respected before anything else, and about which we will not alter our position is the withdrawal of the soldiers to international borders; and the occupying forces that have been the aggressors and have invaded our borders must withdraw behind their borders. [crowd chants support]

No other action is acceptable or possible before that. It is meaningless. At a time when enemy forces are within our borders, how can they have the temerity to discuss the implementation of the other clauses of the resolution and to talk about things that must be undertaken in their own place, in their own time and in their own turn. Troop withdrawal has complete priority.

The very presence of Iraqi forces within our borders is a sign of their ill intention. It is a sign of war. If they really want peace, they must remove the sign of war. That must definitely be done. The Iraqis must not imagine that by dragging out the negotiations they will be able to weaken or shake our resolve with respect to demanding that clause or asserting our just claim. That will in no way be the case. They have tested us in the battlefield. They have witnessed our resolve.

The Iranian nation and, emulating the nation and on the basis of your support, the authorities possess an iron resolve. They choose to utter just words and they stand by those just words. [crowd chants] Of course, the 4-point solution put forward by the secretary general was a solution that could have resolved the problems and, in our opinion, if the United Nations and the secretary general want to play a role, in the true sense of that word,

and also the governments who have backed the secretary general and his action, they must bring pressure to bear on the Iraqi regime and force it to take a correct and rational position. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted]

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Holds Talks With Larijani

LD1011190888 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The first round of talks between visiting Soviet first deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javed Larijani started Thursday evening.

Bessmertnykh referring to Iran's key role in the region, said the Soviet Union attaches great importance to its ties with Tehran and is keen on expanding mutual ties in any field the two countries agree on.

Larijani said continuation of political talks at high levels between the two countries is an indication of their preparedness to expand bilateral ties. He also described as "infrastructural" the role the forthcoming meeting of the joint economic commission due to be held in Moscow next month would play in expanding bilateral ties.

2d Round of Talks With Larijani

LD1111162088 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—Visiting Soviet ranking official voiced his country's full support for U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and U.N. chief's four-point plan here today.

In his second round of talks with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Soviet Union's First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertynkh also said "we have reiterated all priorities have been specified in the Resolution 598 and (they) should be accomplished accordingly." Moscow, he went on, believes (Iran-Iraq peace) talks should continue despite all difficulties.

Bessmertnykh stressing that stability and tranquility in the Persian Gulf is to the benefit of all regional countries noted that security has to be maintained by the regional states. He also placed emphasis on the need for withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

In response, Larijani terming "close" Iran-USSR outlooks on regional and global developments briefed Bessmertnykh on the Islamic Republic's viewpoints vis-a-vis Iran-Iraq peace talks and implementation of the resolution.

Larijani said Iran has welcomed and backed U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's four-point plan but, he reminded, Iraq keeps on hampering the talks.

Persian Gulf issues include certain areas which pave the way for closer cooperation among the regional countries, Larijani concluded.

The Soviet official arrived here Thursday at the head of a delegation and held his first round of talks with Larijani yesterday.

Confers With Majlis Speaker

LD1211170588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. According to the Central News Unit, the Soviet Foreign Ministry deputy conveyed the Soviet leader's greetings to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and declared the Soviet Union's readiness to upgrade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to a new level. He said: Unfortunately, the Iranian Islamic revolution, like our revolution, was immediately caught up in a war after its victory. Instead of construction, the revolution's forces had to take up other things.

He added: As far as the Soviet revolution is concerned, we have started a new revolution in our own country, because in recent decades we made many mistakes and we deviated from the correct path. Current conditions and the ideas of the Soviet leadership have created the necessary readiness to undertake extensive practical measures.

The Soviet first deputy foreign minister added: The Afghanistan issue is a problem which arose for us and, for the sake of resolving the Afghanistan issue, we are realistic and cannot overlook the forces which are in Afghanistan. The Soviet Union accepts Iran's position with respect to Afghanistan and the possibility of a peaceful solution will always be kept in view by us.

Then, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: From the beginning of the victory of the Islamic revolution, our policy has been good-neighborliness and expansion of relations with all neighbors, including the Soviet Union. The Afghan issue initially created a knot and then your position with respect to the question of Iraq added to those difficulties.

The Majlis speaker also said: In the past, too, we have spoken many times and we have even reached the decision-making stage. However, we never entered the implementation stage. From our standpoint, there is no obstacle to expanding relations. In the present situation, we expect that you are serious.

Concerning Iraq, the deputy commander in chief said: We seriously seek peace; but the Iraqis are making excuses. Of course, we consider Iraq too subservient to decide for itself on such an important matter.

He added: Regarding Afghanistan, right from the start, we have maintained that the Afghan people should be taken seriously. If a situation arises, the fate of Afghanistan is determined by that country's people, the Islamic Republic of Iran would make a serious effort. [as heard]

At the end of the meeting, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister invited Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on behalf of Soviet leader Gorbachev, to pay a formal visit to the Soviet Union.

IRNA, TASS Sign Agreement

LD1211170788 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—An agreement was inked Saturday between Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and TASS (Telegrafnoye Agentstvo Sovetskogo Soyuza—Telegraphic Agency of the Soviet Union) for news cooperation.

The agreement was signed by IRNA Director-General Dr. Kamal Kharrazi and visiting First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh on behalf of the Soviet Government.

Tehran and Moscow are to establish two satellite lines for news cooperation. Through one line the two agencies will exchange their news while the other line will be used for exchanging news of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA).

The meeting held at IRNA Headquarters was also attended by the two countries' ambassadors. Bessmertnykh arrived here Thursday at the head of a political delegation.

Discusses Ties With Iravani

LD1211212888 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—Resumption of gas exports would be a "good lever" for expansion of Tehran-Moscow relations, said the minister of economic and financial affairs today, calling for implementation of joint projects.

Mohammad Javad Iravani told the visiting Soviet first deputy foreign minister that expansion of bilateral cooperation in various other areas including energy, steel mills, oil and joint exploitation of border rivers also deserve consideration.

Iran will participate at a ranking level in the next Tehran-Moscow joint economic commission, he added.

Turning to the Iraqi regme's procrastination of the Geneva peace talks, Iravani said Baghdad's sinister designs to hinder the two countries' reconstruction are obvious to everyone. But, he added, the Islamic Republic is determined to pursue its positive stance.

Aleksandr Bessmertnykh responded by calling for Iran-Soviet economic and trade relations and said bilateral ties should preserve the two countries' interests.

The Soviet Union is keen on enhancing economic and trade relations with Iran and will upgrade the level of the 11th session of the Joint Permanent Commission to be held next December in Moscow. Bessmertnykh arrived here Thursday at the head of an eco-political delegation.

Calls Talks 'Fruitful'

LD1311063188 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh returned home this morning after a three-day visit to Tehran and talks with Iranian officials. Bessmertnykh and his entourage were seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Before his departure, Bessmertnykh told reporters that while in Iran he had held "fruitful" talks with Iranian officials including Majlis (parliament) speaker Hojat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani and Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and Mohammad Javad Larijani. He said the two sides have agreed to continue political consultations and promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of commerce, metallurgy, oil, gas, energy and transportation.

The Iran-Iraq peace talks and the issue of Afghanistan were among other topics discussed by the Soviet delegation and Iranian officials, Bessmertnykh said. Of course, he said, this does not mean that there is no difference of opinion between the two countries on the issues. But what is more important is that the two sides have agreed to continue their talks, he added.

The Soviet first deputy foreign minister expressed hope the forthcoming joint economic commission, due to be held in Moscow next month, would bear fruitful results for both countries.

He said during his stay here an agreement was signed between the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) and the Soviet news agency TASS on the basis of which news relations between the two countries would expand in the future.

Bessmertnykh heading a top level political delegation arrived here on November 10.

Commentary on Bessmertnykh Visit

LD1311134888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1048 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The end of the Soviet first deputy foreign minister's trip to our country is the subject of today's first political commentary.

At the end of his 3-day trip, Mr Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, left Tehran after meeting with our country's high-ranking political and economic officials. From one point of view, the trip demonstrated the Soviet Union's wish to remove the coldness in relations between the two countries which was created during the course of Iraq's war against Iran because of the Soviet Union's military assistance to Iraq. In the meetings between the Soviet first deputy foreign minister and the speaker of our country's Majlis and our deputy foreign minister, the main points with regard to molding the two countries' relations gained greater clarity.

From a general viewpoint, these points can be examined from three sides: The first point of disagreement between the two countries relates to the future of Afghanistan's political system. In that connection, Mr Bessmertnykh said in his meeting with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The Afghan issue is a problem that arose for us; we are being realistic about resolving it. However, we cannot overlook the forces present in Afghanistan. The Majlis speaker, for his part, stressed our country's previous position. He said: The people of Afghanistan must be taken into account seriously and they must make their own destiny.

The other point discussed by the two countries relates to the Persian Gulf. At the moment, the Soviet Union's views with regard to the Persian Gulf have, to a large extent, come close to our country's position. In the meeting with Mr Larijani, our country's deputy foreign minister, Mr Bessmertnykh stressed the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf. In the meeting, the USSR first deputy foreign minister discussed economic relations between the two countries as the third major point in molding relations between the two countries.

He referred to the special importance of the holding of the 11th joint economic commission of the two countries in Moscow next month and stressed cooperation between the two sides in the fields of trade, oil, gas, transportation, and energy. He said: The Iranian and Soviet people must familiarize themselves with the process of reconstruction in the two countries.

Mr Larijani, for his part, described the two countries' relations as tending toward expansion. He described the role of the 11th joint economic commission of the two countries as fundamental.

Apart from these matters, the Soviet first deputy foreign minster spoke in his meetings with our country's authorities about his country's anxiety over the slowing-down of the Geneva talks. He said: All precedences have been identified and set out in Resolution No 598, and action must be taken on this basis. On behalf of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, he also invited Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to make an official visit to the USSR.

Further Reportage on Cease-Fire Talks in Geneva

Eliasson on Current Status

LD1011221988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1959 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov 10 (KUNA)—A planned plenary meeting Friday morning between Iran and Iraq and the United Nations team would probably be the last of the current round of talks on the implementation of Resolution 598 U.N. negotiator Jan Eliasson said.

Arrangements were now being worked out for the next series of contacts with Iran and Iraq, he said.

While the meeting Thursday had been positive "we need to have progress on substance," he told journalists after a 90-minute session with the two foreign ministers involved, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Tariq 'Aziz.

Well-placed sources here suggested the U.N. negotiator [words indistinct] him to shuttle between Tehran and Baghdad during January after the two sides had time to reflect over what was achieved in 10 days of meetings in Geneva. [passage omitted] Earlier in the day he had separately received delegations of experts from both countries. Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz declined to make any statement to journalists at the end of the Thursday evening meeting. [Words indistinct] who in Geneva has spoken to the press more frequently than his Iraqi counterpart, repeated his [words indistinct] accusation that Iraq's refusal to accept the four-point plan of the secretary-general was the cause of the stalemate.

"The main problem remains the framework. We hope the other side come around and finally accept the four-point plan," he commented. Velayati said also that one of his delegation, Fatollah Mohajerani, had Thursday afternoon signed a memorandum with the International Committee of the Red Cross for the release of sick and injured prisoners.

3d Round of Talks Completed

LD1111114688 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov 11, IRNA—Iran and Iraq completed their third round of peace negotiations here Friday.

"We haven't had real progress in substantial issues," said Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, "But I can say that in this period we have had a better climate."

The two foreign ministers held face-to-face talks for less than an hour Friday under the supervision of U.N. mediators. The date for their next round of peace talks was not announced. "We do hope that in the next period (of talks) we will have practical progress," Dr Velayati said.

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz also expressed hope that the next round of negotiations, the fourth since August 25, "will achieve progress." :Aziz, as was often the case here, did not make further comments on Iraq's position.

Dr Velayati again blamed Iraq for blocking progress by "insisting on some other issues" outside the framework of Resolution 598 and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's plan to implement it.

For example, he said the Iraqi delegation was demanding "the clearing of the Arvand Rud (River) before the withdrawal and besides the ceasefire."

The dredging of the river, called Shatt al-'Arab by Iraq, was not mentioned specifically in the U.N. resolution or Perez de Cuellar's plan. The river is Iraq's only access to the Persian Gulf but also of importance to Iran as it leads to Khorramshahr and Abadan, Iran's two major ports.

"You cannot find such a thing in the resolution or in the four-point plan... the clearing of this river should be (discussed) under Paragraph 4 (of the plan). Now we are in paragraph one," Velayati explained.

The plan, put forward to the two parties in New York last month, is believed to give priority to the pull back of troops to consolidate the ceasefire.

Iraq has admitted that Iranian troops are not in Iraqi territory but that Iraqi troops have not pulled back from some Iranian territory, estimated by Iran to be more than 1,000 sq. kms.

"I hope that the other side will understand that they should come along and take some practical steps for the implementation of Resolution 598 that should be started with the withdrawal of forces that has been demanded by the Security Council," Iran's foreign minister said.

U.N. special representative Jan Eliasson who chaired the plenary talks in the past week in place of Perez de Cuellar said the talks were moving in the direction of peace "but we have to move faster."

"We are in urgent need of having progress on the points of immediate concern and the first part of this resolution (598) deals with such issues. Ceasefire and withdrawal are the ones mentioned in the first paragraph," he said.

Paragraphs one and two of the resolution call for the withdrawal of "all forces to internationally recognized boundries without delay" and asks the secretary general to verify, confirm and supervise the ceasefire and the withdrawal.

Eliasson, speaking at a press conference at the U.N. Headquarters here, said without direct reference to Iraq that "other issues" had been raised in the talks which were being considered.

He acknowledged that the talks had not achieved a breakthrough but on Iran's call for the intervention of the Security Council to put pressure on Iraq he said it was primarily up to the two parties to break the deadlock.

Nevertheless he and the secretary general were pleased to see both sides were cooperating with the International Red Cross on the repatriation of several thousand sick and wounded prisoners of war.

Iran signed a formal agreement with ICRC Thursday on the release of sick and wounded POWS in exchange for those held by Iraq whose foreign minister was due to meet the ICRC president Friday to formalize its agreement. The exchange is expected to take place later this month.

Eliasson said he would probably report back to Perez de Cuellar on Monday in New York. He said the talks may resume in December or January at ministerial level.

He did not mention where the talks might be held but senior U.N. sources said Geneva was a "distinct possibility."

The U.N. special representative said he had noted a change of atmosphere in the negotiation chamber where tea and coffee was served for the first at breaks. [sentence as received]

Eliasson stressing on the need for quick movement in the talks hoped that he would not be "sitting here in the same situation in 1993" and called on Baghdad and Tehran on Perez de Cuellar's behalf to "reflect deeply" on their 24 hours of talks during the past two weeks.

"There can be no gains on the battlefield. There can only be gains at the negotiating table," he said.

Velayati Departs From Geneva

LD1111162988 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 11, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati along with other members of the Iranian delegation attending the peace talks with Iraq left Geneva for Tehran this afternoon.

The third round of negotiations under U.N. mediation ended Friday morning after nearly two weeks, without a breakthrough.

The Iranian delegation will have a brief stop-over in Vienna before arriving in Tehran. Dr Velayati was due in Belgrade before returning to Tehran today but the visit was cancelled.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives 11 Nov

NC1111063188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a political delegation. The report states that during his 3-day stay in Tehran, the Pakistani foreign minister will meet with our country's high-ranking officials and discuss the expansion of bilateral relations and regional issues.

We recall that the Pakistani foreign minister came to Tehran on an official visit some time ago, but had to cancel his visit and returned to Pakistan because of the crash of the plane carrying late Pakistani President Ziaul Haq.

Meets With Besharati

LD1211131388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The Pakistani Foreign Minister said: The Persian Gulf has a key role in the region, and in this respect the Islamic Republic of Iran is in fact the key to the Persian Gulf.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who arrived in Tehran last night, said this in a meeting with our deputy foreign minister, Besharati, today. While reiterating the importance of friendship between Iran and Pakistan, he said: In the 10 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution, relations between the two countries have enjoyed a remarkable growth and expansion.

In his turn, Mr Besharati expressed hope that such meetings and visits will bring productive results for the Muslim people of the two countries.

Confers With Khamene'i

LD1211220088 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—The president today expressed satisfaction with the growing trend of Tehran-Islamabad relations and told Sahabzada Yaqub Khan that Iran welcomes expansion of mutual ties.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i and the Pakistani foreign minister also discussed the Afghan crisis. Mojahedin and other Afghan Muslims are a key factor in any future government in Kabul, reiterated the Iranian president.

Yaqub Khan, who submitted Khamene'i a message from his Pakistani counterpart Ghulam Ishaq Khan called for further deepening of bilateral relations.

The Pakistani foreign minister arrived here last night.

Meets With Musavi

LD1311204188 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said Sunday that a system of government relying on the true votes of the people must come to power in the Islamic land of Afghanistan. He also attributed the Soviet troop pull-out underway from the country to the Afghan Muslims resistance.

The premier's remarks came in a meeting with the Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan who is curently here on an official visit.

Underlining the strong foundation of Tehran-Islamabad ties, Musavi called for further expansion of mutual ties in political and economic spheres including the border issues.

Yaqub Khan, pointing to the close ties between Iran and Pakistan, praised the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities in consolidating them.

He described the Soviet military pull-back from Afghanistan as a victory for the countries of the region and expressed hopes that the Muslim people of Afghanistan could achieve independence and the right to decide their own destiny.

Yaqub Khan who arrived here Friday night has also met with President Khameni'i and Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rasfsanjani.

Maldives

President Gayoom Sworn In; Situation 'Normal'

BK1111100788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has been sworn in as president of the Maldives for the third term. He was administered the oath of office by the Maldivian chief justice at a solemn function in the capital, Male, this morning. Mr Gayoom was elected president of the Maldives for the first time in 1978. In 1983, he was reelected for the post. In a recent referendum, Mr Gayoom was again elected as president with over 96 percent of the votes in his favor.

Our special correspondent, John Churchill, reports from Male that the swearing-in ceremony was attended, among others, by high-level delegations from nearly 50 countries. India is represented by the minister of external affairs, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Speaking after the oath-taking ceremony, Mr Gayoom thanked the people and the Government of India, particularly Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for extending prompt military assistance to solve the attempted coup by mercenaries early this month. He said the people of Maldives will remember with gratitude the laudable steps taken by India in response to their request to protect independence and sovereignty of the Maldives.

Our correspondent reports that those present at the function cheered lustily when Mr Gayoom deviated from his prepared speech to thank India and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Mr Gayoom also thanked other countries, including Sri Lanka, the United States, and Bangladesh, who had also expressed their readiness to provide help.

Today, Republic Day, is being celebrated in the Maldives. It became a republic on this day 20 years ago. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, is meeting President Gayoom this afternoon to discuss bilateral and other related issues. Our correspondent says life in the Maldives is almost back to normal. The captured mercenaries have been shifted to an island adjacent to Male.

Mosad Reportedly Involved in Abortive Coup

JN1111120588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Amman, 11 Nov (INA)—Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has stated that the abortive coup attempt by mercenaries in his country was carried out at the behest of the Israeli intelligence department, Mosad.

In an exclusive interview published by the Jordanian newspaper AL-DUSTUR today, Gayoom said that one of the reasons that prompted Israel to plan this abortive coup was because his country hindered the implementation of Mosad's conspiratorial plans against the Southeast Asian nations.

The president described his country's relations with the Arab countries as good and said: We established excellent economic relations with Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, and Libya. Gayoom pointed out that a number of teachers from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Sudan are working in the Maldives.

[Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 11 November carries on pages 15 and 18 a 1,500-word report on an interview with Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom by AL-DUSTUR correspondent 'Arafat Hijazi. The president talks about his country's relations with the Arab world, and his support for the Palestinian cause, saying that his country severed ties with Israel 10 years ago because it annexed Jerusalem. Nowhere in the report is the president found to mention the Mosad or its connection with the recent coup.

However, AL-DUSTUR's report begins as follows: "The abortive coup attempt that some mercenaries carried out in the Maldives was undertaken at the behest of the Israeli intelligence department, Mosad, which has a presence in Southeast Asia. The Maldivian position was one of the causes that paralyzed the Zionist activities and hindered the Mosad's conspiratorial plans in Southeast Asia. Israel established commercial companies to hide its real activities and was especially interested in reaching areas that are close to Pakistan in order to destroy the Pakistani nuclear reactor. Ten years ago, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom wiped out all of Israel's hopes when he staged his coup against the regime with which Israel had close ties."]

Pakistan

Troops To Return to Barracks After Elections

BK1211162288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The chief of Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg has said that he hopes that all political parties and independent candidates will accept the verdict of the elections being held on the 16th of this month in accordance with the recognized norms of democracy. In a democratic dispensation, the majority gets the right to form a government.

Talking to military officials in Nawabshah today during his visit to the troops in the interior of Sind, he said all preparations have been completed to hold free and fair elections in very peaceful and conducive conditions. He added that during the election campaign, which is in full swing, the people have reacted by and large positively on national issues.

The Army chief said the the challenge of preserving Pakistan's honor, security, ideology and independence is clearly preeminent in the minds of the people and on this fundamental issue there is no divergence of approach. He said such a consensus on [word indistinct] facts will provide a definite guarantee to promote healthy democratic traditions in the country.

The chief of Army staff, who has been making extensive visits from Siachen to far-flung areas of Sind including Chor, Khokhropar, and Nawabshah, expressed his satisfaction at defense preparedness and arrangements for internal security. General Aslam Beg commended the Armed Forces' role in defending the borders and in maintaining law and order in urban areas, especially in Karachi and Hyderabad. He said the Armed Forces will continue to fully meet the nation's expectations during such times of trial.

The chief of Army staff reiterated that after the formation of an elected government soldiers will return to the barracks and will pay undivided attention to their basic responsibility of defense of the frontiers of the motherland.

General Mirza Aslam Beg also attended a briefing on measures to maintain law and order in connection with elections and preventing illegal movements at the border. Various commanders briefed him about measures taken for the safety of the people and election arrangements. He toured the city and inspected some posts.

The Army chief also visited Chhor where the local commanders told him about the election arrangements in Thar Parkar District. General Mirza Aslam Beg addressed the troops there. He also met with troops in Khokhropar.

BBC on Bhutto Election Campaign in Punjab

BK1411035288 BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 14 Nov 88

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] As the Pakistan election campaign goes into its final days, the leader of the country's People's Party—the PPP—Benazir Bhutto, has been visiting the key province of Punjab. Her visit there ended in Lahore, where she addressed hundreds of thousands of people, who had waited several hours for her to arrive. Kathy Evans was among the crowd.

[Begin Evans recording] They have been waiting in the thousands for over 9 hours. But the Benazir's cavalcade of trucks, buses and motorbikes, all piled high with people, did not arrive till 0300 in the morning to the stadium. In the meantime, the crowd was entertained through the chilly, early hours of the morning by fire eaters, jokes, songs, and party slogans.

The most popular warm-up act appeared to be a (?freakish) commentary between two mythical teams, one team the Islamic Democratic Alliance and the other the Pakistan People's Party. Naturally Benazir's main political opponent in the Punjab, the province's chief minister, Mr Nawarz Sherief, was bowled out to a roar of approval from the crowd.

Benazir, when she finally did arrive, looked pale and tired from her tour of the city's five constituencies. She told the rally that her opponent, the Islamic Democratic Alliance, had no candidate for a prime minister, no manifesto and no unified stand on Afghanistan. They accused me of collaborating with India, she said, yet India did not shed a tear when her father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was executed.

To thundering approval from the crowd, she declared that unlike my opponent, Mr Nawaz Sherief, I am the only person in Pakistan who could compete for any electoral seat in the country. I am, she said, the only national leader Pakistan has. [end recording]

Afghan Refugees Banned From Entering Cities

BK1211132588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 12 (AFP)—Pakistan has banned Afghan refugees from entering cities and towns in the country as part of strict security measures being adopted for next week's elections, official sources said Saturday. Resistance sources in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar also confirmed the refugees' movements had been restricted since Tuesday. Pakistan goes to the polls for parliamentary elections on Wednesday and two days later they will elect provincial assemblies.

The ban has been called to avoid any confusion between the local people and refugees, Chief Refugee Commissioner Rustam Shah Mohammed told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. Some three million Afghan war refugees are living in more than 300 camps in south-eastern Baluchistan and North West Frontier Provinces. Observers said it was the first time in nine years that the camp dwellers have been asked not to leave their houses in the sprawling refugee villages set up in a number of city suburbs.

Refugees in Pakistan, unlike in many countries, have had free access to cities where they are engaged in various labour jobs, business and transport. The Refugee Commission has asked the Afghan resistance organizations based in Peshawar and Quetta to instruct Afghan mujahidin fighters and refugees not to enter the city limits from election eve until Sunday, informed sources said. The government has also asked the refugees to stay away from the polling stations, the sources said.

Special security measures which include deployment of troops at sensitive places have also been taken to prevent sabotage and subversion, officials here said. They said mobile bomb squads would be on patrol. The country has been subjected to bombings at crowded bus terminals or shopping centres. The government routinely blames the incidents on Afghan agents disguised as refugees.

The ban follows allegations from the opposition Pakistan People's Party that the rival Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) wanted to use refugees to cast bogus votes for the IJI which has pledged strong support to the Afghan resistance.

The Afghan mujahidin organisations said their offices would remain closed from November 14 to November 20 during the election period.

Supreme Court Rules ID Cards Needed for Voting

BK1211113188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Excerpt] A full bench of the Supreme Court in Lahore this afternoon suspended the operation of judgment of the Lahore High Court, which has ruled that nonidentity card holders [as heard] will be able to cast their votes proving their identity to the satisfaction of the presiding officers.

The interim judgment was pronounced by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Mohammad Haleem.

The full bench of the Supreme Court also granted leave for the hearing of appeal by the Federation of Pakistan against the judgment of Lahore court on the present record with liberty to file additional document. The date for the hearing of appeal will be fixed later.

The interim judgment was announced by the bench after hearing the attorney general, Mr Aziz A. Munshi, who represented the state and the councils of the responded, Mr Abed Hassan Minto, Mr Sejad Jahangir, and Mr Abdur Sattar (Nazam). [passage omitted]

Court Dismisses Petition Seeking New Poll Dates

BK1311114688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The full bench of the Supreme Court today dismissed a constitutional petition filed by Haji Mohammad Saifullah raising a number of points in the context of present governmental structure and seeking fresh dates for holding of general elections in the country.

The full bench, presided over by the chief justice, Mr Justice Mohammad Haleem, observed that the constitutional issues raised by the petitioner were being dealt [with] in detail in its comprehensive judgment in the earlier petition of Haji Saifullah against the dissolution of the National Assembly, to be delivered later.

The Supreme Court last month upheld the Lahore High Court judgment that the dissolution of the National Assembly was not sustainable in law, but had declined to restore the assembly or the cabinet. [passage omitted]

Training of Iranians in Atomic Energy Denied

BK1411024588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that no Iranian was being trained in Pakistan's atomic energy institutions. The spokesman said the report published in a London paper in this connection is totally baseless.

Sri Lanka

220 Demonstrators Arrested; 16 Killed, 26 Injured

BK1111110688 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1031 GMT 11 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Two hundred and twenty illegal demonstrators and rioters were arrested by police and security forces in Sri Lanka's Southern and Uva Provinces, yesterday [10 November]. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that gunmen, who were among a large crowd of demonstrators violating the curfew at Tissamaharma had opened fire at the security forces seriously wounding two soldiers. They said security forces returned the fire, killing six curfew violators, injuring nine and arresting a hundred of them.

At Tangalle security forces whose warnings went unheeded by a crowd of rioters, who were violating the curfew, opened fire killing five and injuring three. Ninety seven of the rioters were arrested by security forces.

Rioters, who were violating the curfew at Badalkumbura in Sri Lanka's Uva Province district of Monaragalle pelted stones at the security forces and the police, wounding a police sergeant. The security forces and the police were forced to open fire to bring the situation under control, killing four persons and injuring eleven.

A report from Badulla states that a mob of about 5,000 rioters heading toward Badulla town along the Badulla-Passara road failed to heed warning to disperse, compelling security forces to open fire, injuring three persons, who were admitted to Badulla hospital. Twenty demonstrators were arrested.

A report from Bandarawela states that a mob had attacked a police jeep carrying a squad of policemen to disperse a mob, which was rioting at Ayslady Estate with rocks. The police opened fire, killing one.

LANKAPUVATH Confirms 28 Sinhalese 'Massacred'

BK1411120188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1139 GMT 14 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 14 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Twenty-eight bus passengers, all of them Sinhalese, were massacred by suspected LTTE terrorists this morning at Trincomalee, in eastern Sri Lanka, police told LANKAPUVATH. They said the killings had taken place at the Kannikitiyawa junction on the main Gomarankadawela-Horowapotana road at 0730 hours (local time) this morning.

Except for a policeman who was on his way to Horowapotana to purchase provisions for the Gomarankadawela police post, the other 26 [number as received] victims were all farmers. There were also reports that a soldier may have been among the victims. The terrorists had used automatic rifles and bombs in the brutal murders.

15 Killed in Incidents, Including Lieutenant
BK0911104688 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1014 GMT 9 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, 9 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Fifteen persons including an army officer, a vice chairman of an urban council, a Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) depot manager and a railway inspector were killed in separate incidents in the last two days according to security reports received today. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that subversives had shot dead Lieutenant Gamini Dissanayake of the Second Sri Lanka Light Infantry while he was on his way to his detachment at Galewela, in Anuradhapura, yesterday.

The sources said that unidentified gunmen killed the vice chairman of the Urban Council, Anuradhapura, Ariyapala Gunaratne, yesterday evening at Saliyapura. The sources further said that a railway inspector, Ananda Bopage, who is also chairman of the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya [workers union] of the Railway Department, Anuradhapura, was stabbed to death by a gang of unidentified persons. [passage omitted]

Government Toughens Stand; JVP Kill Nine
BK0911141888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 9 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Wednesday announced tough measures as Sinhalese militants called for a general strike to continue, apparently to disrupt Thursday's presidential nominations.

An essential services order was clamped under sweeping emergency powers to maintain health, water, electricity, fuel, transport, communications and postal services which have been crippled since Monday, officials said. The order also covers ports and banks, which have also been hit by the three-day island-wide general strike sponsored by the Janatha Vimukhti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) to demand the government's resignation. A five-hour night curfew also continued throughout the country.

Earlier Wednesday, the government ordered troops to shoot demonstrators on sight, saying that "subversive elements"—a government euphemism for the JVP—were planning a new wave of violence. A military spokesman said JVP activists, blamed for the murders of more than 500 people in the past 15 months, had killed another nine people, including an Army officer, in separate incidents overnight Tuesday.

A government statement said employees who failed to report for work Thursday would be considered to have quit their jobs and be replaced by fresh recruits. It added that retired workers would get double their previous wages if they gave a helping hand.

JVP leaflets distributed clandestinely Wednesday called for extending the work stoppage to Thursday to coincide with the filing of nominations here for the December 19 presidential election, the military spokesman said. "The leaflets have asked shops to shut, transport to go off the roads and everything except hospitals to close," he said. The leaflets have also asked for an immediate withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka.

The JVP strike has crippled most of the strife-torn island and forced authorities to ask tourists to review their travel plans. Nearly 3,000 tourists, mainly Europeans, cut short their holidays and left Sri Lanka Wednesday, airline and tourism officials said. All hotels between Colombo and the international airport, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of here, were fully booked and some visitors were willing to share rooms with strangers, hoteliers contacted by telephone said.

Ceylon Tourist Board Marketing Director Priyantha Fernando said all tourists from the southern coastal Bentota and Hikkaduwa towns had been evacuated following the board's directive Tuesday to review their travel plans. "We have told our people in London not to book any more tourists for Sri Lanka," a leading travel agent said.

Tourism officials said 6,000 tourists, mostly from West Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy, were in the country. They had Tuesday put their number at 12,000 and said some 8,000 would be affected by the order. Tour operators have also asked tourists wishing to visit Sri Lanka to put off their plans.

In another development, the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) Wednesday said it would stay away from Parliament after its members walked out of a special session demanding the government's resignation over the crisis. "We are facing a most dangerous and grave situation... All political parties are sitting on a volcano about to erupt. Some in the government believe it while others stubbornly refuse to do so," opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike said.

The Parliament Wednesday approved a law granting citizenship to some 260,000 people of Indian origin who had been living in Sri Lanka for many years. The JVP, which led an insurrection in 1971, renewed its campaign of violence after India and Sri Lanka signed a peace pact in 1987 to end a Tamil separatist campaign. India has some 49,000 troops in the island under the accord.

Security Forces Ordered To Shoot Curfew Violators
BK1111113088 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The government has thanked those persons who came to work despite obstacles placed in their way. Those who failed to turn up in workplaces, declared essential services, will have their services terminated. However, those who were prevented from attending work yesterday due to delays in transport will be given work.

A communique issued by the government states that the aim of the subversives is to starve the people of the basic essentials and thus pretend to be their liberators. Disruptors at workplaces will continue to be arrested and will continue to be detained. The public are warned against participating in illegal demonstrations, violating curfew and inciting workers at workplaces. Any person found committing such acts will be shot at sight by the security forces.

Capital Punishment for Strike Instigators
BK1111130488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Sri Lankan Government today issued an emergency decree providing capital punishment for persons convicted of possessing strike posters or leaflets. According to official sources in Colombo, the decree also provides for capital punishment for anyone trying to intimidate people to join the strike.

The Army has been ordered to arrest anyone carrying strike leaflets or posters or displaying them anywhere. The general strike has crippled essential services throughout the island. The situation is reported to be far from normal and the curfew in the southern and central parts of Sri Lanka has been extended till tomorrow. [passage omitted]

23 Prisoners Stage Jailbreak in Anuradhapura
BK1011062588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0610 GMT 10 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 10 (LANKAPUVATH)—Twenty three prisoners in the jail at Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka's North Central Province staged a jail break and robbed 26 weapons and ammunition late last night after overpowering their guards.

A senior prison official told LANKAPUVATH this morning that 21 subversive suspects, another prisoner on remand and a special convicted prisoner had overpowered the jailer on night duty and his guards and escaped from the Anuradhapura prison at 2200 hours local time and 2300 hours local time yesterday.[sentence as received]

Police while confirming the jailbreak said that 26 weapons comprising three revolvers, 17 repeater shot guns and six 12 bore shot guns along with 70 rounds of ammunition and 300 SG [submachinegun] cartridges has been taken by the escapees. A massive joint security force and police cordon and search operation is now in progress to apprehend the escapees and recover the stolen weapons.

Meanwhile, a curfew has been declared in Anuradhapura between 0600 hours local time and 1500 local time today.

Justice Minister Resigns Over Prison Escape
BK1111113888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1048 GMT 11 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Minister of Justice Dr. Nissanka Wijeratne has resigned from the post of minister of justice, states a government communique issued today. The communique further states that in a cable which has been sent to President J.R.Jayewardene from Paris, Dr. Wijeyaratne has stated:

"The escape of detenues from Pelwatta and the recent serious incidents in Welikade, compel acceptance of responsibility by me as minister in charge. I therefore offer my immediate resignation from portfolio to which you have kindly appointed me".

Mr. Shelton Ranaraja, acting minister of justice, has also resigned from the post of acting minister as well as his substantive post of deputy minister of justice. The president has accepted these resignations.

Deputy minister of justice, Paul Perera, has been appointed today by the president as the minister of justice.

Spokesman Says 2 Killed, 21 Injured in Jail Riots
BK0911041288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0236 GMT 9 Nov 88

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command said news reports that 10 prisoners had died when rioting prisoners were fired at in Welikade jail were incorrect. He confirmed 2 deaths and 21 injured.

At a magisterial inquiry held yesterday, jailor J.A.G. Jayasinghe, of Welikade prison, told additional Colombo magistrate, M.M.A. Gafoor, that prisoners, who were armed with handbombs, petrol bombs and dangerous weapons had taken an overseer hostage and threatened to kill him if guards intervened. The hostage was later released.

The witness said he had warned the rioting prisoners, armed with iron bars, axes and manna knives, not to attempt any jailbreak and they responded: "We won't go out, but if we do, we'll kill (?you) and go".

He said that as the prisoners attempted to break a gate with iron bars and a petrol bomb injured a soldier's face, he ordered the firing of teargas. As this did not curb the violence, he was compelled to open fire and 10-15 rounds were fired, to bring the rioters under control.

Dr M.S.L. Salgado, Colombo JMO [jail medical officer], certified that the two prisoners had died of firearm injuries on their heads and legs. One of the dead was serving a 6-month term for a narcotics offence, while the other was a murder convict who had served 7 of his 17 years. The narcotics offender had two more months to serve.